

Local

Man demands \$500K from Army for not re-enlisting him

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former soldier who was denied re-enlistment in the U.S. Army is now demanding that the U.S. Army pay him \$500,000 to settle the civil complaint he filed in the U.S. District Court for

the NMI yesterday.

Melvin Castro alleges that the U.S. Army imposed “fabricated medical causes” on him and disqualified him from re-enlistment despite being able to pass the minimum performance requirements.

Castro submitted the civil complaint *in forma pauperis*,

which refers to an instance where a person who is unable to pay court filing fees is allowed to submit their case to a court.

Castro alleged that the U.S. Army “imposed non-self-inflicted” scars on his left wrist, and implied that the Army disqualified him from re-enlisting

due to a fractured finger on his left hand. Castro argues that a “fractured finger is not cause for disqualification.”

Castro further maintains that despite having a fractured finger, he surpassed minimum scores for physical evaluation tests during his time in service.

Castro also maintained that

the Baker Act stated on his medical examination documents were “subjective.” According to an online definition, the Baker Act is a Florida law that enables families and loved ones to provide emergency mental health services and temporary detention for people who are impaired because of their mental illness, and who are unable to determine their

needs for treatment.

Castro states that he “was not institutionalized for any mental illnesses.”

Castro participated in a re-entry examination at a military entrance processing station in Portland, Oregon, and was denied re-enlistment. Castro later tried again at the recruiting station on Saipan, and was again denied re-enlistment.

Demapan wants public libraries to be eligible for net metering

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) has introduced House Bill 22-67 to include public libraries in the list of eligible entities for net metering and to prioritize the interconnection with net metering for renewable energy capacity at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

“Including public libraries in the definition of education entities will allow our public libraries to qualify and apply for federal grants that support the White House’s priorities for clean energy to power the future in the U.S. territories as part of the larger efforts towards energy security in America,” said Demapan.

At present, Public Law 18-75 only provides exemptions

for net metering for health and education entities in the Northern Mariana Islands, in particular the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Public School System. Demapan wants to assist the Commonwealth’s public libraries in their efforts to apply for federal grants that will help public libraries reduce their utility costs and dependence on non-renewable energy.

“Over time, CHCC, PSS, and public libraries will save millions of dollars in utility costs and in turn, be able to utilize the money saved for other essential needs of their respective operations,” added Demapan.

In addition, any reasonable direct expense to CUC for re-

viewing and interconnecting the photovoltaic or wind power, renewable energy capacity shall be the responsibility of the entity and that there would be no cost to CUC to prioritize the interconnection of the renewable energy.

“I would like to recognize Erlinda Naputi, library director for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, and her team for proactively seeking federal grants that would help them reduce their operations costs,” said Demapan. “It was through their efforts applying for grants that director Naputi raised the issue regarding the need to enact statute to include public libraries in the list of eligible entities for net metering.” (PR)



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Member FDIC



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Queens Club, Kensington Hotel
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cn zoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 05/05/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7072** – DPW is proposing to construct a Convenience Center/Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station to accept residential trash and recyclables. The station will also include a temporary oil staging area, one (1) bulk items area and one (1) office building. This use is classified as “Transfer Station” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 004 G 43 in the village of Kagman. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7071** – DPW is proposing to construct a Convenience Center/Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station to accept residential trash and recyclables. The station will also include a temporary oil staging area, one (1) bulk items area, and one (1) office building. This use is classified as “Transfer Station” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 049 K 02 in the village of As Gonno. This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-6772** – SPP, LLC dba CSP Farm is proposing to construct a 66' (L) x 39' .7" (W) x 12' (H) fully concrete building structure for its “Cannabis Farm” Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 039 L 50/039 L 51 in the village of Obyan. This area is zoned as Rural.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-6462** – Top Hatz Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76' .3" (L) x 45' .10" (W) x 16' (H) for its “Adult Business” Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7205** – Adetfa Lot, LLC dba Marianas 420 Café is proposing to construct a 95' (L) x 95' .5" (W) x 13' .4" (H) fully concrete building structure for its “Cannabis Lounge” Use inclusive of one (1) Restaurant floor area. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot 2003-4-1/Lot 343-R1 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. New Business

1. Zoning Office Building Renovations
2. Garapan Revitalization Project
3. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Act
 - i. Regulations
4. Westlake Motor, LLC – Car Rental Business

D. Miscellaneous

1. Communication from Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero – Permit Process
2. Administrator's Updates
3. Permit & Enforcement Report

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

Judge: \$7,500 is average cost to complete Drug Court program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It costs an average of about \$7,500 for anyone to successfully complete the CNMI Judiciary's Drug Court Program. On the other hand, it costs \$31,000 a year to house an inmate at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

These were the figures Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio cited last Thursday when asked during the House of Representa-

tives' Committee on Ways and Means public hearing on the Judiciary's budget.

Kim-Tenorio, who handles the CNMI Drug Court, said the cost for an individual to complete the Drug Court program depends on the participants because some of them require more

drug testing, more treatment, etc. That cost averages at about \$7,500, she said, but could go as high as \$11,000. On the other hand, the pro-

gram's success rate is 85%.

"So the folks that are graduating—at least 85%—are not coming back into the criminal justice system," Kim-Tenorio said.

In comparison, the judge said, she constantly asks DOC how much it spends to house inmates and they would tell her it's \$31,000 a year for a healthy inmate. "So when you think about incarcerating someone for 10 years, for example that's \$310,000 versus \$7,500," she said.

Kim-Tenorio believes the



Kim-Tenorio

cost saving is even more because all of their participants have children. "I can think of maybe one or two that don't have kids, but [almost all] have kids. They have parents, their siblings, people that have cut

them out of their lives for so many years. And they're making amends," she said.

Kim-Tenorio said they make sure that participants get a job or get an education equivalent to GED (high school) if they don't have it already. "We make sure that

they have housing. And you know, we start them out with [Northern Marianas Housing Corp.], food stamps, Medicaid and so forth," she said.

Eventually, not all of them but many of them find full-time jobs and they start supporting themselves and paying taxes, Tenorio said.

"So its impact is larger than just seeing all this one person," the judge said.

House Committee on Ways and Means vice chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who presided over the hearing, said in summary the Judiciary's request was more than

its 2019 budget level.

Blanco said the Judiciary is requesting an additional \$5 million, which would include, among others, additional employees and funding, wage increases, and funding for the Mental Health Court, which is slated to be launched in July this year.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

or
Top Hatz Saipan, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Hatz Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76'.3" (L) x 45'.10" (W) x 16' (H) for its "Adult Business" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: June 16, 2021
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Queens Club, Kensington Hotel

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Adetfa Lot, LLC dba Marianas 420 Café

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

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TOURISM

From Page 1

demic, things and situations change constantly. If we have community transmission next week, then we would have to revise and adapt and that was the only caveat," she said. "...TRIP is not set in stone. ... We will adopt it but in the event anybody brings up changes with the board, then we can have an emergency meeting in order to amend it to fit the circumstances."

What is the TRIP program?

According to Kim-Hinds, who is the chairwoman of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the TRIP program is an offshoot of the tourism resumption blueprint that was put together last year in June by the Office of the Governor, the Governor's COVID-19 Task

Force, and CNMI healthcare officials, which basically allowed for the partial resumption of the tourism industry.

"The flatline of tourist arrivals as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 has basically resulted in the dramatic and swift loss of tourism arrivals that has led to business closures and widespread employment disruptions, which has impacted the government's ability to generate revenues. ... Fortunately for all of us, the federal government has come for us through the CARES Act and, most recently, the American Rescue Plan Act, but these funds are not going to last forever," she said.

It has therefore become a race for time to get the CNMI economy back to a sustainable level before the ARPA funds run out, she said. "... The forefront of our consideration was balancing two things—how do we keep vigilant to make

the community safe while working toward to an economic self-sustainability before we run out of federal assistance that is bound to expire within two years? ... TRIP intends to revive the tourism industry in the CNMI, which is critical in supporting thousands of jobs and families that rely on these jobs to keep the lights on and put food on the table," she added.

TRIP then is a set of organized plans on how the CNMI will accept tourists, how tourists can enjoy their stay, and how airlines, hotels, and tour operators can jumpstart their own operations. TRIP includes incentives and discounts given to airlines, hotels, tour operators (during the pilot program only) that have been studied and vetted to attract tourists back and ensure that the program will not overrun or compromise the safety of the community.

According to Tourism Resumption Task Force of-

ficer Ivan Quichocho, these incentives are not intended for them make money but to ensure they lose less money or at least break even.

■ **Flights:** The CNMI agrees to incentivize flights that will have below 40% load and for ticket prices to be sold at \$400 per passenger. Anything above 40% load, carriers won't need the incentive. To date, there are two carriers that have shown potential in participating and will run two flights a week for an eight-week duration and maintain the ticket price at \$400.

■ **Hybrid quarantine facilities:** The first five days of arrival will be spent at a designated quarantine site. The difference between the "Hybrid Quarantine Hotel" from regular quarantine hotel in the CNMI is that tourists can go out of rooms and enjoy the facilities. On Day 1 all passengers will receive a PCR test

and all visitors must remain in their rooms. On Day 2 to 4, if the results are negative, visitors will be free to enjoy the facilities that include water parks, access to the beach, restaurants, and local golf course. All hotel staff and workers will also stay in the facilities. Day 5 after a second PCR test with negative result, visitors will leave the hybrid quarantine facility. Both PCR tests are free, covered by TRIP.

■ **Corridor Hotel:** At least two hotels will be tapped as "Corridor Hotels." TRIP will incentivize these hotels to offer 24-hour service, available rooms, dining accommodations, water sports activities, and must be willing to open with COVID-19 monitoring guidance. TRIP plans to subsidize \$150 for a room a day.

■ **Travel Agency Incentive Program:** These are incentives for wholesale and retail travel operators in order to sell and push the CNMI as an ideal travel destination. In order to avail of incentives, operator must be

accredited and bear the "Safe Travel Stamp" of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

■ **Tourist incentives:** Aside from the free PCR tests, tourists are given "Travel Buck" that is likened to pocket money for their trip to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Each island visited will entitle them to a \$500 voucher that they can use for hotel accommodations, food, etc. The more islands they visit, the bigger the "Travel Buck" they will receive from the program.

The pilot program will cost between \$8.6 million and \$13.2 million. Benefits estimated are between \$18.4 million to \$20.9 million. According to King-Hinds, the budget for the TRIP will come from the ARPA funding.

"The only source of money right now is ARPA. Obviously, there are legal requirements when you use those funds and that is why we are rolling and having this conversation. Also MVA, will have to properly vet it," she said.



Discussions took place at the presentation of the Tourism Investment Program by the Tourism Resumption Task Force chaired by Kimberly King-Hinds.

BEA CABRERA

LAWYER

From Page 1

According to a press release published by the court last May 26, a \$5.91-mil-

lion default judgment was ordered by the court in the lawsuit *Tianming Wang, et. al vs. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, et. al.*

In a phone call with Liza-

ma last night, he said he was "caught by surprise" to hear that Cui's translator is acting like a representative for Cui, officially submitting documents to the district court. "He's a translator, not a lawyer," said Lizama.

He said that Cui's claim that he resigned as her lawyer on May 29 is false, and remains Cui's lawyer in *Tianming Wang, et. al vs. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, et. al* and two other cases.

"Clients are entitled to say whatever they want to say," said Lizama. He said that given the recent turn of events and Chi's filing on the behalf of Cui, he feels that he "now has no choice but to file a motion to withdraw [as Lijie's lawyer]."

In the June 1 filing, Cui told the court that many of her alleged failures to cooperate with legal proceedings in the past were "caused largely, if not all of them, by Mr. Lizama, who for some reason beyond my comprehension had failed to inform me of everything communicated to him by the opposite lawyers." Previously, there have been legal complications regarding a court order for Cui to surrender and preserve her phone data.

Cui provided an example

of Lizama's alleged incompetence, citing an instance where opposing counsel Aaron Halegua, who represented the seven former construction workers, passed over a request to Lizama for Cui to submit "written answers to many questions" by May 21, 2021, at 5pm. Lizama allegedly shared these documents with Cui on May 25. "How could I be able to comply with such request?" asked Cui in the court filing.

Cui further mentioned that a detailed explanation of her alleged past "failures" will be provided as soon as she is able to find a "responsible and competent" lawyer.

Cui, through her translator, ends her request to the court by saying she has been "honest and cooperative" with the court thus far, and further asks the court to understand her situation: she does not speak English well, nor does she know the U.S. legal system that well. As a result, she had to "trust and rely hundred percent" on Lizama for legal advice. Cui maintains that her and Chi have "cooperated to the best we can with all instructions and requests from Mr. Lizama."

As of press time Tuesday, Cui is still without a lawyer.

MUÑA

From Page 1

Saipan residents traveling to Guam, the agreement says an individual must present their CNMI Immunization Registry Official Immunization Record upon arrival and could be exempt from quarantine.

"With a responsibility to protect the people of the CNMI, travelers coming into the CNMI must meet the requirements of the CNMI and not the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ... CDC states that all over in their website—check and follow requirements of the states and territories," said Muña.

Since the CNMI still has a significant number of unvaccinated residents and Guam continues to have COVID-19 cases within the community, Muña said there is still infection risk for unvaccinated individuals to transmit COVID-19 to others—and they can still do that even if they are already fully vaccinated.

Muña said the CNMI has not identified any community case for several days now. According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the last community case was last March 15, when a total of 10 individuals were identified as a community cluster of COVID-19 cases, according to a Governor's COVID-19 Task Force statement. This includes the 147th case on March 12; 148th, 149th, and 150th cases on March 13; 151st, 152nd, 153rd, and 154th cases on March 14; and then the 155th and 156th cases last March 15.

Travelers from CNMI going into Guam

In the CHCC-DPHSS agreement, it says that passengers

who are fully vaccinated in the CNMI and are arriving in Guam are to present their photo identification (e.g. passport, driver's license, state-issued identification) along with their CNMI Immunization Registry Official Immunization Record upon arrival and they could be exempt from quarantine.

The agreement also says that the acceptance of both immunization records are to take effect on May 27, which will remain in effect until: 1, the expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, or 2, the DPHSS director or Muña rescinds or modifies this order based on specific public health or other considerations.

To be considered fully vaccinated, an individual must wait two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

COVID-19 incentive

The E-Land Group is offering its first COVID-19 vaccination incentives with a raffle for a one-night stay with breakfast for two persons at the Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque and two golf vouchers for 18-hole round at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort in Kolblerville.

The raffle is open to all individuals who complete their first dose by June 5, 2021. Those who have received their first, or both, doses are automatically inputted into the raffle.

CHCC and E-Land will draw names on June 7. As of press time, it's not announced how many names will be drawn from the raffle.

To register to get vaccinated, individuals can go to vaccinatecnmi.com or call 682-7468(SHOT).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for SPP, LLC dba CSP Farm

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-003	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	MAY 24, 2021	JUNE 7, 2021

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED U.S. WORKER. INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Department of Public Works

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-3.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com and ldlcs.dpw@gmail.com no later than June 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-3:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 3								
DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design				
				Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design			\$ 300,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design				
				Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
II	San Jose	205	Route 205 - Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design		\$ 250,000.00		
				Construction			\$ 1,700,000.00	
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE				
				ROW				
				Construction			\$ 1,000,000.00	
				CM				
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design				
				Construction		\$ 2,500,000.00		
				CM				
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design			\$ 200,000.00	
				Construction				
				CM-DPW				
III	Chalan Piao- San Jose	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE Design				
				Construction		\$ 6,000,000.00		
				CM		\$ 1,000,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design				
				Construction			\$ 1,000,000.00	
				CM			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design				
				Construction	\$ 2,500,000.00			
				CM-DPW				
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update	\$ 20,000.00			
				Construction		\$ 3,000,000.00		
				CM		\$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design	\$ 500,000.00			
				Construction			\$ 2,500,000.00	
				CM			\$ 300,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design				
				Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
				CM-DPW				
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,050,000.00	
		31/307	Hazard Elimination-Intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa	Construction		\$ 200,000.00		
		34	Kagman Traffic Road Repair	Construction		\$ 250,000.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including other funds)					\$ 24,867,291.99	\$ 24,857,105.99	\$ 13,425,301.79	\$ 4,229,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ not including other funds)					\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79	\$ 777,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

SBA OPENS APPLICATION FOR 'COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PILOT' PROGRAM

\$100M grant program aims to help businesses in underserved communities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Small Business Administration is accepting applications for its new Community Navigator Pilot Program.

This new initiative, established by the American Rescue Plan, will leverage a community navigator approach to reach the nation's smallest businesses, with a priority focus on those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, as well as women and veterans. SBA will accept applications through July 12, 2021, and anticipates making award decisions by August 2021. The Biden-Harris Administration has made delivering equitable relief to hard-hit small businesses a top priority and will continue to take steps to ensure equitable distribution of relief.

"The Community Navigator Pilot Program is a crucial addition to our SBA programs because it helps us to connect with small businesses that have historically been underserved or left behind. These businesses—the smallest of the small in rural and urban America, and those owned by women, people of color, or veterans—have suffered the greatest economic loss from this pandemic," said SBA administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. "We'll be using a hub and spoke model in local regions across the nation to bridge the gap between local entrepreneurs and SBA's resources and programs. If we're go-

ing to build back better, we need to ensure that all entrepreneurs have the support they need to recover."

In February 2021, Congress met to provide a blueprint on assistance to small businesses with provisions under the American Rescue Plan. Members of Congress met with constituents to discover at local levels, the impact of the pandemic and the effect it is having on businesses that may have been left out in early rounds of relief.

"I've spoken to small businesses in every corner of Arizona. Far too many of them, especially tribal and minority-owned businesses and those in rural communities, have been unable to get the support they need," said Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona. "It's why I fought to include the Community Navigator Program in the American Rescue Plan because it will help meet Arizona small businesses right in their communities, including providing assistance for Spanish-speakers, and get them the relief they need to keep their doors open and workers on payroll."

"As someone proudly representing one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country, I am glad the Community Navigator Pilot Program will soon be launching," said Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux of Georgia. "We have already seen the difficulties diverse communities face in accessing

critically-needed relief resources, from securing PPP funds to rental relief. Through targeted outreach to small businesses in underserved communities, we can ensure that everyone is able to take advantage of the resources offered by the American Rescue Plan."

The Community Navigator Notice of Funding Opportunity will be open to applications from nonprofit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments, SBA resource partners, and other organizations. Selected partners will engage in targeted outreach for small businesses in underserved communities to help small businesses get the resources and support they need to get back on track as the economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our small business owners—especially those owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, people of color, women, veterans, and Native Americans—they need us the most, and they need us now," said SBA associate administrator for the Office for Entrepreneurial Development Mark Madrid. "This initiative underscores our Agency's commitment to connecting distressed small business resources with SBA resources and grant funding."

"The SBA understands the importance of partnering with organiza-

tions as well as smaller, local institutions that are already embedded in the fabric of the Main Street business communities they serve," said assistant administrator for the Office of Women's Business Ownership Natalie Madeira Cofield. "Community Navigators are the backbone of aiding underserved and underrepresented communities across the nation with recovery."

Key in this initiative are partners and people in the community, serving as a two-way information stream, enabling enterprising business owners to receive the help needed from the SBA. Serving as the foundation of America's economy, these underserved businesses have areas of con-

cern that need to be addressed. Community Navigator Pilot will provide counseling, networking, and the assistance needed during this time of economic recovery.

Competitive grant awards will range from \$1 million to \$5 million for a two-year performance period. Applicants have until July 12, 2021, to submit their applications at grants.gov. Performance periods are projected to commence in September 2021. Those eligible to apply must meet and demonstrate abilities to support the requirements of this funding opportunity.

For more information on the Community Navigators Initiative, visit www.sba.gov/navigators. (PR)

Learn to respond to challenging dementia-related behaviors with free online certification program

Throughout the month of June, the University of Guam's Isa Psychological Services Center will provide an opportunity for family caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES Dementia-Related Behavior.

This award-winning program focuses on learning how to respond to challenging and socially inappropriate behavior that often accompanies dementia. Participants will learn effective ways to support persons with dementia who are feeling confused, frustrated, scared, or angry and how to respond when persons with dementia exhibit behavior that is disruptive or aggressive.

The program includes four modules that participants can complete on either Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm or Saturdays from 10am to noon according to the following schedule:

Module 1 – Introduction to Dementia-Related Behavior:

- 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, June 2, or
- 10am – noon, Saturday, June 5

Module 2 – Using the CARES Approach with Dementia-Related Behavior:

- 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, June 9, or
- 10am – noon, Saturday, June 12

Module 3 – Breaking Down the CARES® Approach for Dementia-Related Behavior:

- 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, June 16, or
- 10am – noon, Saturday, June 19

Module 4 – Key Responses to Dementia-Related Behavior:

- 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, June 23, or
- 10am – noon, Saturday, June 26

Participants who complete all four modules will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification.

CARES was created by Health-Care Interactive, an organization that specializes in online training for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. All of the CARES training programs were developed in collaboration

with the Alzheimer's Association and include evidence-based strategies grounded in the Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations.

Support group sessions throughout 2021

The CARES Dementia-Related Behavior training sessions are part of Isa's ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted in collaboration with the UOG School of Health's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program. Support group sessions will be held remotely on Zoom year-round in 2021. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who live in or have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

What to expect

All support groups are client-centered and confidential. They provide a safe place to share the stresses and challenges, successes, and rewards of caring for a loved one with dementia with others who may be going through similar experiences. They also provide a forum for caregivers to participate in presentations led by health care professionals and other community members with expertise in dementia care.

The support groups are facilitated by clinical psychologist Dr. Iain Twaddle of Isa Psychological Services Center; Health Services of the Pacific social worker Rhoda Orallo, who holds a master's in social work; and Isa counselor Nikolas Gutierrez, who holds a bachelor's in psychology.

How to participate

To attend a family caregiver online support group, use the following Zoom links:

- Wednesday Support Group (6pm–8pm): <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>
 - Saturday Support Group (10am–noon): <https://zoom.us/j/91243370958>
- For assistance or more information, call or email Twaddle or Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or isa@triton.uog.edu or Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@teleguam.net. (PR)

**MARCHING TO KASTIYU PLATEAU**

U.S. Marines march up to the historic Kastiyu Plateau on Tinian to participate in the Memorial Day rites last Monday, May 31, 2021. In the process of capturing Tinian, which lasted from July 31 to Aug. 1, 1944, 389 U.S. Marine Corps officers and men were killed and 1,816 were wounded; over 5,000 Japanese soldiers were killed.

GUNNY SERGEANT DAVID STILLWELL

Commission on Civil Rights establishes new advisory committees in territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has established five new advisory committees in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Additionally, the commission is seeking nominations of qualified and bipartisan candidates who reside in these particular territories for consideration for appointment as voluntary Special Government Employees of these advisory committees.

The commission is currently accepting nominations and applications to each of the five U.S. territory advisory committees. The committees are composed of 11 to 15 members and must be bipartisan with a diversity of viewpoints and experiences. The commission will appoint the members of each committee to a four-year term by majority vote of the commission's commissioners.

The commission will also appoint the chair of each committee. Each committee will hold at least four meetings per calendar year either in-person or virtually.

Interested applicants may self-nominate or be nominated by another individual or organization.

» Nominations sought for bipartisan candidates

Submission of U.S. Territory Advisory Committee nominations for membership (Residence in territory nominated for is required) can be made

to David Mussatt, Ph.D., Supervisory Chief of Regional Programs, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60604, ATTN: US Territory Advisory Committee Nomination or via email at dmussatt@usccr.gov, SUBJECT: US Territory Advisory Committee Nomination. Individuals who would like to self-nominate may apply directly at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7WCLL6>.

The commission endeavors to ensure the membership of the U.S. Territory advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of political membership, points of view represented, and that individuals from a broad representation of gender, and ethnic and minority groups, as well as individuals with disabilities, are considered for membership. Appointments shall be made without discrimination on the basis of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Advisory Committees provide independent advice and recommendations to the commission about civil rights matters within each committee's particular geographical jurisdiction. These committees operate as Federal Advisory Committees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and under the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights' jurisdiction, policies, and procedures for its advisory committees. (PR)

GMS holds recognition and commencement exercises at SWR

Green Meadow School officials, staff, and students converged on Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall last May 23, 2021, for two ceremonies—an awards and recognition day for non-graduates and commencement exercises.

GMS segmented the morning into four separate time slots—two for the recognition ceremony, one for pre-school commencement exercise, and one joint elementary and middle school commencement exercise. With each ceremony, a different keynote speaker honored the venue with their presence and wisdom.

Awards and recognition ceremony

GMS held the first recognition ceremony at 7am for its Kinder-4, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students. The young falcons were all seated at the Royal Taga Hall's main stage facing their family members and teachers.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Tai Doram, a certified cognitive behavior consultant, behavior specialist for the Public School System and current chair of the CNMI Behavior Health Planning Council. Doram, as a parent of a GMS student in preschool, urged parents to be the salt for the sake of their children—to



Keynote speakers
top – Dr. Tai Doram, Mr. Robert Hunter
bottom – Ms. Erlaine Evangelista, Dr. Alfred Ada

enhance, enrich, and nurture their child's potential.

Soon after the banquet hall was vacated, GMS continued the second half of the recognition ceremony for the 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th grade students.

The keynote speaker was Robert Hunter, who is a senior policy adviser at the Office of the Governor. Hunter is a long-time active parent leader for GMS since enrolling his daughter at the school over eight years ago. During his time at the Department of Community and Cultural Af-

fairs, he has worked closely with GMS and spoken on several occasions during parent leadership meetings. Hunter shared that his daughter, who was part of the graduating middle school class, and her growth and education has always been his priority.

Commencement exercise

The first batch of Falcons—the term for GMS students—gracing the Royal Taga hall with their little graduation gowns were the Kinder-3 and Kinder-5 class. Seven K-3 and

Seven K-5 students walked down the center of the venue for their graduation processional march.

The keynote speaker was Erlaine Evangelista, an early learning specialist and coach from the Evergreen Learning Center, who was speaking on behalf of their program manager, Dr. Jasmin Niedo. Evergreen has worked closely with GMS over the years, alongside with the Child Care Licensing Program Office, to support quality standards in

early childhood development in the CNMI. Her message centered around fostering the natural curiosity of young ones, allowing them to find their passion.

The school's 5th grade and 8th grade graduates then marched down the hall for their graduation ceremony. This graduating class's keynote speaker was Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, who shared the many accomplishments and milestones that GMS has already achieved. His mes-

sage highlighted the theme of the event “Your mind, like the eagle with its mighty wings is capable of soaring to greater heights.” “Education is both your right and it is a need. It is both essential and critical that we all take advantage of this privilege.”

For more information about Green Meadow School, call 235-2185, email info@greenmeadowsschool.net or visit its main campus in Chalan Kiya past the Saipan Health Clinic. (PR)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **June 3 – Teaming & Joint Ventures** – We will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ **June 8 – The *NEW* System for Award Management** – SAM and beta.sam merged recently. We will explore the new website and show you how to register your business in SAM.

■ **June 10 – Service Contract Act** – The SCA requires contractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ **June 15 – Federal Acquisition Regulations Explained** – We will demystify many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **June 17 – Buy American Act** – The BAA was put in place to protect American manufacturing. The rules are complicated and can be frustrating for government contractors. We will discuss the BAA and offer some guidance on how to stay in compliance.

■ **June 22 – SBIR/STTR**

Programs – Calling all inventors and innovators. The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how you can get involved.

■ **June 24 – Applying for a DUNS Number & Registering in SAM** – To sell your product or service to the Federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. We will show you how to easily and efficiently complete these registrations.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Virtual Marianas conservation conference this June

» Event is virtual and free and open to the public

The 4th Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference and Workshop will be held virtually on June 8, 9, 10, and 15, 16, 17, with talks from 7am to 10:30am, Chamorro Standard Time.

This virtual conference is free and open to the public, and seeks to inform residents of the Marianas, as well as researchers, scientists and cultural practitioners about science and conservation projects conducted in the Marianas. Short talks and panel discussions feature topics including environmental history, ecosystem restoration, endangered species conservation, invasive species management, conservation planning efforts, the Cocos Island brown tree snake invasion, and conservation education.


Throughout the two-week conference period, in-person workshops and field trips will provide participants the opportunity to learn about natural history and conservation efforts in the Marianas.

Also, a virtual career fair will be held on Thursday, June 10, from 10am to 11am ChST and a graduate school fair will be held on Wednesday, June 16, from 10am to 11am ChST, for anyone interested in careers and graduate school programs in conservation.

2021 Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference and Workshop		
Tuesday, June 8th	07:00 - 07:15	Welcome
	07:15 - 08:15	Environmental History
	08:30 - 10:00	Native Species Conservation
Wednesday, June 9th	07:00 - 08:45	Native Bird Conservation- Guam
	09:00 - 10:15	Native Bird Conservation - CNMI
	10:15 - 10:30	Memorial Tribute
Thursday, June 10th	07:00 - 08:30	Invasive Species - Brown Tressnakes
	08:45 - 10:15	Invasive Species - General
	10:15 - 11:15	Careers in Environment and Conservation
Tuesday, June 15th	07:00 - 10:15	Conservation and Restoration Planning
Wednesday, June 16th	07:00 - 9:45	Spotlight on Islan Dáno/Cocos Island
	10:00 - 11:00	Graduate School Panel
Thursday, June 17th	07:00 - 08:45	Ecology and Ecosystem Restoration
	09:00 - 10:00	Outreach and Education
	10:00 - 10:30	Awards and Closing Ceremony


The conference is sponsored by Tãno, Tãsi, yan Todu, a non-profit organization working to restore and preserve the land and sea for the people of the Mariana Islands, and by Guam Community College and Iowa State University.

To register and obtain more information, go to the conference webpage, <https://www.marianasterrestrialconservation.org/> or contact Dr. Haldre Rogers at haldre@iastate.edu, or Joni Quenga Kerr at jonita.kerr@guamcc.edu. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

10 more dead, this time in San Jose; action needed now on gun control

Another mass shooting Wednesday, this time in San Jose, California. And 10 more human beings are dead, including the gunman. They are dead because of madness, but also inaction.

It is fair to ask—perhaps the Lord himself asks: How long, oh man; how long?

Why are we so determined to be so helpless in the face of this pandemic?

The issue with gun control in this nation is not what will



work and not work, but why we do not even begin to experiment and adapt.

It is not how long it will take to get the many weapons of war we have allowed onto our streets, and into the hands of our children, under some kind of control, but why we never make a start.

As President John F. Kennedy used to say, if the problem will take a generation, begin now; begin immediately.

But, instead of passing legislation, we say that, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

No, it will not.

And, instead of dealing with a national crisis of mental health and homelessness, we retreat from our cities.

This is so, though this piece of the puzzle is solvable.

The issue is not our political will but our utter lack of it.

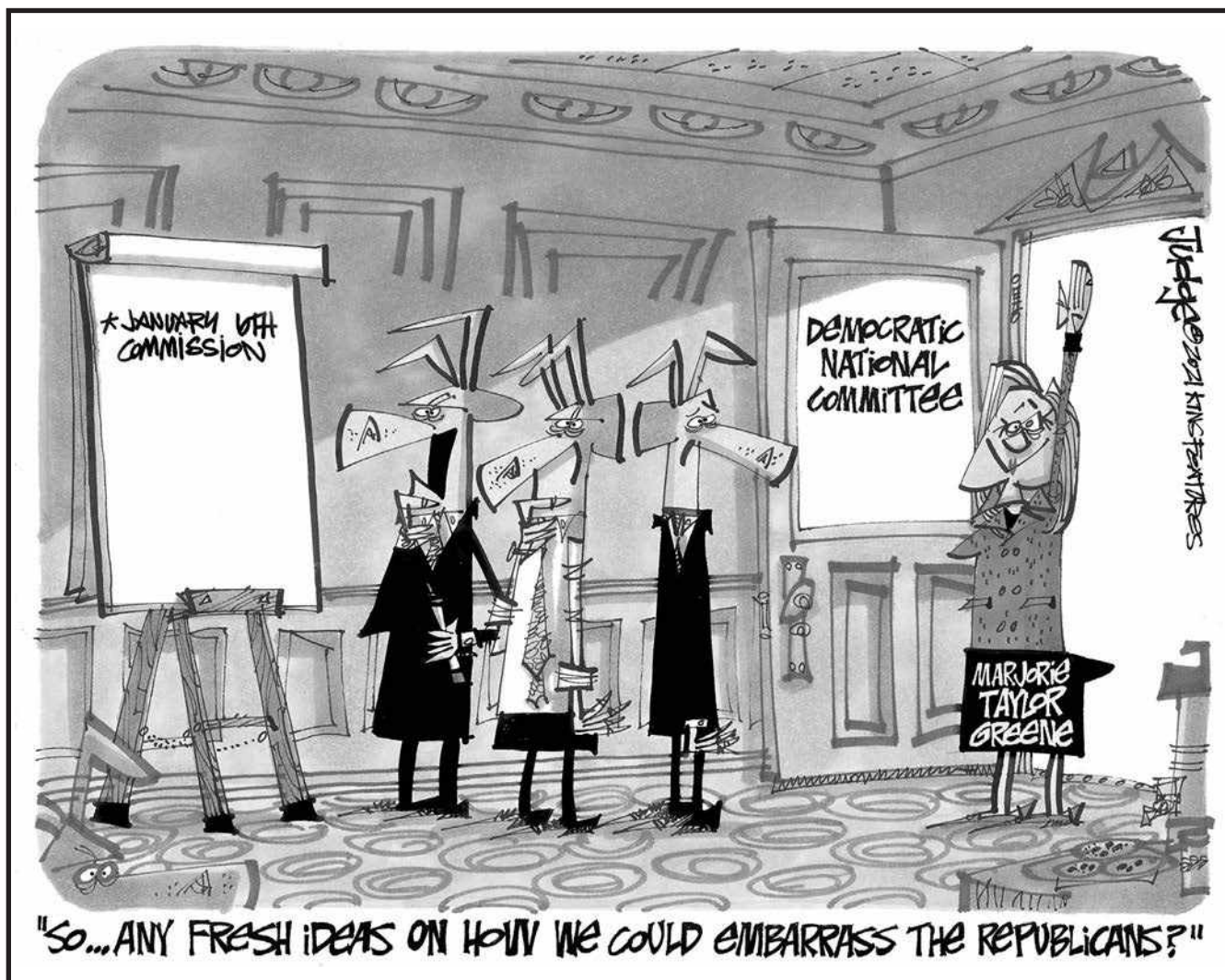
It took New Zealand one incident, of the kind we have in the U.S. weekly, to get to work and address the mass shooting issue.

Barack Obama has said that the greatest regret he has about his presidency was the inability to get something done on gun violence and reasonable gun restrictions.

President Joe Biden should appoint Obama to head a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission to recommend swift, and specific, action on this crisis, and to lobby Congress and the public until progress begins.

It is time for a constituency of conscience to combat the National Rifle Association, and, more important, our national lethargy and lack of self-confidence and self-respect.

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Rewrite history—before it happens

For what seems like forever, America's presidents have been ordering up new U.S. policies designed to finally fix, or at least make the best of, the old and perpetual crises in Afghanistan.

And sooner or later, each optimistic U.S. president has discovered that even the best-intentioned Afghan fixer-upper ended up looking like it had been cobbled together by his departments of Unforeseen Developments and Unintended Consequences.

Today we'll start by trying to finally learn from the entire history of flailed and failed U.S. initiatives in Afghanistan. In the process, you will read about one U.S. initiative that may surprise not just you, but also those who consider themselves experts because they know about every miscalculation that has been on the whole sad list, ever since 9/11.

This week, President Joe Biden, who probably spent more eras grappling with Afghanistan than all other modern presidents combined, has been seeing military and diplomatic info that seems to be warning him that, despite all his experience and optimism, he may be joining that exclusive club of commanders-in-chief who produced woebegone Afghanistan outcomes.

On Wednesday, Washington's policymakers awoke to a warning-siren blaring from the upper-right corner of *The New York Times*' front page. A news article reported that Biden's administration and NATO intend to have their troops withdrawn from Afghanistan by early to mid-July; that's later than Trump's pledge to withdraw totally by May 1, but well ahead of Biden's pledge to be gone by Sept. 11.

"The Pentagon still has not determined how it will combat terrorist threats like Al Qaeda from afar after American troops leave," *The Times* reported. "Nor have top Defense Department officials secured agreement from allies about repositioning American troops in other nearby countries. ... The rapid withdrawal has exposed a variety of complex problems that have yet to be resolved and are provoking intense concern."

On May 6, Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, issued this chilling non-assurance: "It's not a foregone conclusion, in my professional military estimate, that the Taliban automatically win and Kabul falls." As the general was briefing reporters in the Pentagon, Taliban troops were attacking seven depleted rural Afghan military bases. On Thursday, *The New York Times* reported, the Taliban had captured all seven bases.

We know well what to expect (see also: what to fear) if the Taliban re-conquer Afghanistan. When *The Washington Post*'s Lally Weymouth asked Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani about the Taliban's subjugation of women, including assassina-

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



tion attempts on women journalists in Kabul, the Afghan president explained how and why the Taliban's followers accept such horrific acts against women:

"They've grown up outside normal families in madrassas in the absence of women, so women have been construed as a threat to them."

There is an unbelievably wacky, yet entirely true, backstory behind the role those madrassas played in the making of today's besieged Afghanistan. The United States played a once-secret role in the molding of the boys in those rigidly Islamic Afghan schools. It happened two decades before al-Qaida terrorists planned and launched its 2001 attack on America from sanctuaries in the Taliban-run Afghanistan.

President Ronald Reagan's administration developed a plan to stealthily promote freedom-fighter militarism among Afghanistan's Islamic youths, hoping they would someday rise up and run the godless Soviet communist troops out of their country. Reagan officials decided to flood rural Afghanistan's madrassas with millions of schoolbooks designed to foment Islamic militancy. The U.S. Agency for International Development gave \$51 million in grants to the University of Nebraska Omaha's Center for Afghan Studies. Soon young Islamic boys were learning math by counting pictures of soldiers, tanks, guns and land mines.

And lo, the Soviets wound up wasting a vast fortune in a failed war to control Afghanistan. President Bill Clinton's administration canceled the program in 1994. And we didn't even find out about it until *The Washington Post* wrote about it in 2002. (Even then, the freedom-fighter image molding master plan wasn't really made clear until it was detailed in a book on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction—"Avoiding Armageddon: Our Future. Our Choice"—that I wrote in 2003.)

Those militant young Afghan boys in the mid-1980s were men in their 20s and 30s when the Taliban was ruling Afghanistan and giving Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida the sanctuary from

See REWRITE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

To the Class of 2021: Show up for each other

The following is an adaptation of Michael Bloomberg's commencement address to Johns Hopkins University's class of 2021.

The pain and loss that America and the world—and you—have felt this year has been unfathomable. Isolation has made it even harder.

One of the reasons this time has been so challenging is that before the pandemic, when we were physically around each other, we fed off each other's energy. That energy was food for the soul. It made us healthier and happier. But since the pandemic began, instead of having that nourishment, we've been on a starvation diet—with a lot of bingeing on empty calories like "The Real Housewives" and "Selling Sunset."

But hopefully over the past year, we've also developed a new appreciation for the importance of being in each other's presence. We once took that for granted, but I think we now realize that social interaction is truly special.

That idea—the importance of togetherness—is what I'd like to speak with you about today. Because I believe it holds the key to happiness not only in your personal lives, but in your careers, too.

For the past 15 months, we've seen each other mostly on the screens of our computers and phones. If the pandemic had arrived when your parents were your age, that wouldn't have been possible. But in the decade most of you were born, things began to change.

Starting then, we realized a communications revolution was forever changing the way we interact with each another. Email, text, chat and video calls all connected people as never before. At our company, we introduced a chat function for customers that was one of the first social networks in the world.

And in the years that followed, new social media platforms were created, allowing people to share opinions, news, photos, dance moves and just about everything else—including, of course, the most brazen lies and the most outrageous conspiracy theories.

Ten years ago, we used to hear a lot about how social media would bring the world closer together. And in some ways, it has. But the zeitgeist has changed. And as we have seen here in the U.S., social media has also helped tear us apart.

In fact, it now threatens to obscure something fundamental to the human experience. And that is: There is real power in the act of gathering together in person.

Leaders throughout history have understood that. When we gather in person—whether it's to play or pray, to work or peacefully protest—we gain the power to reach higher and we live more fully than we could on our own.

Over the past year, we've gotten a good look at how digital technology cannot replace physical togetherness. Not when it comes to being with friends and family. Not when it comes to being with professors and classmates. Not when it comes to attending a party or going to a museum. And not when it comes to interacting with colleagues and coworkers, in whatever field you choose to pursue—whether it's science or medicine, engineering or business, the arts or the military.

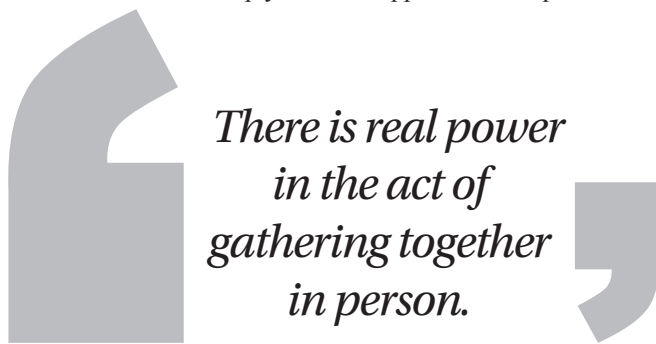
Back in the 1990s, management experts told us that soon everyone would be telecommuting and working from home. The office was a dinosaur, slowly going extinct—or so we were told. They were wrong. It survived.

Today, we're hearing the same thing: Remote working will be the new normal. And for some employers, it may very well be—at least for a while. But I'm more convinced than ever that the most successful organizations and individuals—whether they are in the private, public or nonprofit sectors—will be those that place a premium on face-to-face, in-person interaction.

Zoom will never replace the water cooler, because when we gather face-to-face, we come to understand one of life's great truths: Achieving our full potential as individuals can only be done with the help of others. And the more we surround ourselves with people from diverse backgrounds, the more we learn and grow.

There's a simple word for that idea: teamwork. And the best and most successful teams have something intangible that gives them an edge. It's called "chemistry." And while there's a lot that technology makes possible, it cannot replace the chemistry that flows from direct human contact, which is what gives rise to the most powerful reactions and combinations.

Among the most important elements in those reactions, the elements that really drive innovation and problem-solving, are two activities that simply cannot happen online: spontaneous



conversation and chance encounters.

Over the course of my career, I've seen how we can be at our most productive when we're taking a break. Bumping into someone in the hall might spark a new collaboration. Kibitzing with a colleague over coffee or peanut-butter crackers could spur a creative idea. Like many organizations today, our company designs all of our work spaces to maximize informal interactions. That's why we have no walls and no private offices.

Now, I wasn't the first person to recognize the importance of random interactions in the workplace. Almost a century ago, the creators of the fabled Bell Labs designed a building so that scientists would have to walk down long hallways past many other offices to get to the cafeteria. It was like a people collider, and all the scientists were instructed to work with their doors open.

Out of that environment came inventions that transformed life as we know it, including the first satellites, cell phones and solar panels. Bell Labs was like a mass-production line for Nobel Prize winners.

Maybe some of their inventions would have occurred without the long hallways and open doors—but certainly not as early as they did. Because ultimately, innovation and success are driven more by group interaction than individual inspiration. And that is true for whatever profession you choose.

Of course, kibitzing can also occur on Zoom. But the opportunities are more limited. Plus, the randomness of bumping into people disappears. Video calls are fine for exchanging information. But when it comes to building relationships, building partnerships, building teams and building networks, when it comes to fostering creativity and cooperation and solving problems, there's no substitute for being there and looking people in the eye.

If you're not convinced, just think about remote classes versus in-person ones. I think you'd agree: not the same.

Or watching a concert online versus in person: not the same.

Or dating remotely versus in person: definitely not the same.

The experiences could not be more different because of the chemistry. The energy and inspiration we get from being with other people is what drives the world forward.

It's how problems get solved.

It's how innovation happens.

It's how power is exercised.

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG**
Bloomberg Opinion

Michael R. Bloomberg is the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News, and UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions..



It's how tyrants are toppled.

It's how change gets made, and it's how we can achieve great things in our lives, for our communities, and for our countries.

Now, as you apply for jobs, you or your friends may be hoping for an employer that will let you work from home five days a week. But there is more to career happiness than wearing pajama bottoms all day and remembering to press the mute button when you visit the bathroom.

Since you presumably plan to work for a few years to come, you might ask yourself whether you really want to stake your future on an organization that doesn't prioritize contact among employees. Because it may not be around for the long haul.

That doesn't mean you need a 10-year plan for your career. When I was in your shoes, about to be handed a diploma in electrical engineering, it never occurred to me that I would work on Wall Street, or start a company that invented a computer, or build a global media business, or serve three terms as mayor of New York, or start a foundation to tackle global problems—including an issue none of us even knew existed back then: climate change.

I didn't imagine I'd do any of that, and I can assure you my professors didn't either.

The main reason I've been able to do it is simple: I worked closely with so many talented and driven people who opened my eyes to new possibilities. They helped me do things I never could have done on my own, and they stopped me before I did something stupid.

After business school, I didn't have a job lined up, so a friend recommended I apply for an entry-level position on Wall Street—even though I had no particular interest in finance. I worked long days and nights for 15 years, right up until the day I was let go—which is a nice way of saying I was fired. But from the close relationships I made during those years, I was able to hire three incredibly talented people and start a company.

So, yes: It's good to have a career plan that you care about. But it's better to have close colleagues and friends you care about, and who care about you. Because even the best laid career plans have a way of changing for the better when you develop strong relationships with people who you see every day, and who can help open new worlds to you.

This goes well beyond our personal lives and our careers. It connects to our democracy and the health of our republic. As we have seen, that dialogue is breaking down across the U.S.—partially, I believe, because people are willing to say things to other people online that they would never dare to say to their face.

For democracy to work, we need to be able to have difficult conversations about politics and religion, voting rights and racial justice, equity in health care and education, crime and gun safety, gender and orientation. And the more we can have those conversations face-to-face instead of screen-to-screen, the more constructive and productive they will be, and the more progress we will make.

So as you leave this campus and go out into the world, I hope you will take this one big idea with you—because it really could not be more important. And that is, simply: Be present for others, in your careers and personal lives.

Because ultimately, it is only through the power of our relationships that we can fulfill our potential, and that we can build teams capable of creating a society that is more just, more equal, more peaceful and—in the words of our nation's founders—more perfect.

Whatever you do tonight and tomorrow, and for the rest of your lives: Do it like the world may lock down again tomorrow. Do it together. And do it in person.

If you take that to heart, I know you'll do amazing things.

HOUSE

From Page 8

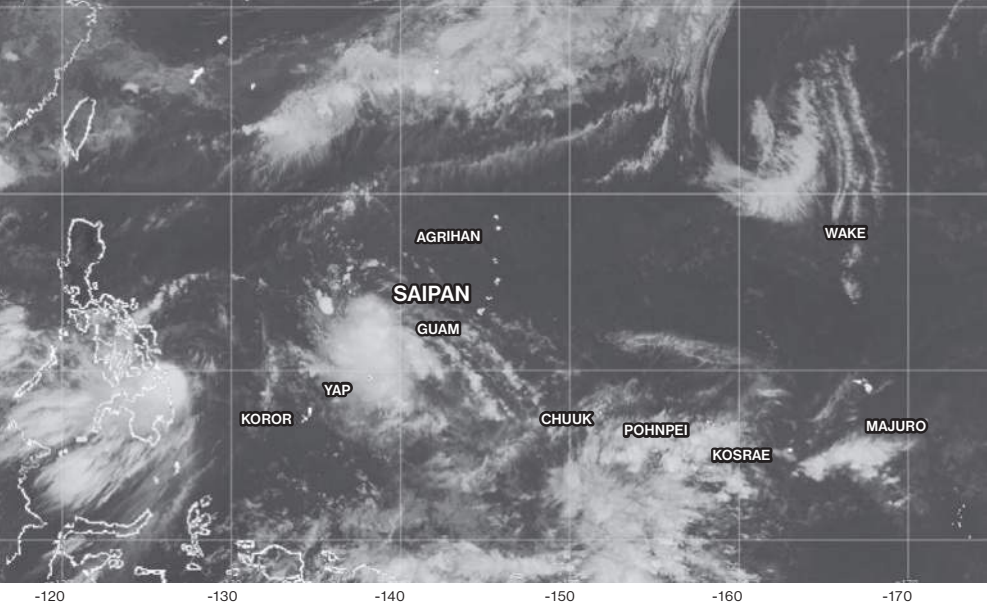
which they attacked America's homeland, half a world away.

Time out! President Biden would be wise to slow his rushed withdrawal, which is now just a slightly recalibrated version of Donald Trump's withdrawal from America's longest war, in which 2,442 U.S. troops have died since 2001. Biden will regret it forever if the Taliban takes control, subjugates women once again—and gives al-Qaida and other terrorists sanctuary once again.

If both of those foreseen but unintended outcomes happen, history will judge him harshly. And accurately.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	86°	76°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 12:32 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest satellite imagery shows a general drying trend across the region with cloud cover significantly decreasing as moisture pushes out to the west. As a result, have updated local forecasts to reflect a drier rest of today and tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	89 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87 74 °F	
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	87 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F	
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:20 AM	12:10 PM	-
Thursday	1:00 AM	1:00 PM	-
Friday	1:37 AM	1:48 PM	-
Saturday	2:12 AM	2:35 PM	-
Sunday	2:47 AM	3:21 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	62 52 °F	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	91 75 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	84 73 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	75 55 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	72 61 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	89 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	57 40 °F	
Miami	Partly cloudy	86 78 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	71 60 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	82 70 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	81 61 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	84 58 °F	
Rome	Sunny	84 59 °F	
Salem	Partly cloudy	73 55 °F	
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	64 55 °F	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	79 56 °F	
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	76 66 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly cloudy	80 60 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:23 AM	High Tide	2.02	
8:27 AM	Low Tide	1.24	
12:38 PM	High Tide	1.58	
7:46 PM	Low Tide	0.33	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Who benefits? US debates fairest way to share spare vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP)—In April, the Biden administration announced plans to share millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses with the world by the end of June. Five weeks later, nations around the globe are still waiting—with growing impatience—to learn where the vaccines will go and how they will be distributed.

To President Joe Biden, the doses represent a modern-day “arsenal of democracy,” serving as the ultimate carrot for America’s partners abroad, but also as a necessary tool for global health, capable of saving millions of lives and returning a semblance of normalcy to friends and foes alike.

The central question for Biden: What share of doses should be provided to those who need it most, and how many should be reserved for U.S. partners?

The answer, so far at least, appears to be that the administration will provide the bulk of the doses to COVAX, the



AP
In this April 21, 2021, file photo, President Joe Biden speaks about COVID-19 vaccinations at the White House, in Washington.

the ability of the U.S. to use its vaccine stockpile to benefit some of its better-off allies. It was not clear whether South Korea would pay for its doses from the U.S. Most of the other doses were expected to be donated.

Samantha Power, the new USAID administrator, provided the first indication of the likely allocation last week in testimony on Capitol Hill.

She told the Senate Appropriations Committee that “75% of the doses we share will likely be shared through COVAX. Twenty-five percent of whatever our excess supply is that we are donating will be reserved to be able to deploy bilaterally.”

Administration officials cautioned that Biden had not yet signed off on the precise split and that it could still change. The White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans, said the administration would be working in coming days to synchronize its supplies with the global vaccine sharing organizations.

Biden has committed to providing other nations with all 60 million domestically produced doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. That vaccine has yet to be authorized for use in the U.S. but is widely approved around the world. The U.S.-produced doses will be available to ship as soon as they clear a safety review by the Food and Drug Administration.

Californians hit beaches, travel ahead of virus rules easing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Californians headed to campgrounds, beaches and restaurants over the long holiday weekend as the state prepared to shed some of its coronavirus rules.

Southern California beaches were busy with families barbecuing and children playing in the sand and surf. Business owners said they were scrambling to hire workers to keep up with the stream of customers eager to get out since virus cases have fallen and vaccinations have risen.

“It feels very, very close to normal,” Bob Alfara, a resident of seaside Santa Monica, told KCBS-TV.

The surge in travel and recreation comes as California prepares to relax social distancing and masking rules in two weeks as long as coronavirus cases remain low.

California was the first U.S. state to impose a statewide shutdown when the virus emerged in March 2020 and the nation’s epicenter for the disease in early 2021.

But the state has reported a significant turnaround. In recent weeks, newly reported infections in California have fallen below 1,000 on some days and the state’s positivity rate has been 1%.

The state is now expected to end its tier system for business operations on June 15. Already, about 90% of

California’s population is in the lower two of the state’s four tiers guiding business activities.

Large-scale indoor events will have vaccination or negative test requirements until at least October.

The change in pandemic-related rules comes as Californians gear up for summertime fun.

At Los Angeles International Airport, travel reached a 2021 record on Friday with more than 78,000 passengers passing through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints, airport officials said. Daily passenger traffic is still about half of what it was two years ago but has been steadily increasing, the Los Angeles Times reported.

“It’s been a long year, and to see people coming back to the airport is a great change of pace,” said Heath Montgomery, an airport spokesperson.

Just in time for Memorial Day, a local veterans’ group that met weekly until the pandemic halted in-person gatherings finally got a long-awaited reunion.

Members got together in West Hills for coffee and donuts and to catch up on the year gone by, Ed Reynolds, a veteran with Wings over Wendy’s, told KTLA television.

“It’s good to see these faces again,” he said, his voice cracking. “It’s sort of emotional.”

U.N.-backed global vaccine sharing program meant to meet the needs of lower income countries. While the percentage is not yet finalized, it would mark a substantial—and immediate—boost to the lagging COVAX effort, which to date has shared just 76 million doses with needy countries.

The Biden administration is considering reserving about a fourth of the doses for the U.S. to dispense directly to individual nations of its choice.

The growing U.S. stockpile of COVID-19 vaccines is seen not only as a testament to American ingenuity, but also its global privilege.

More than 50% of Ameri-

cans have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and more than 135 million are fully vaccinated, helping bring the rate of cases and deaths in the U.S. to the lowest level since the earliest days of the pandemic.

Scores of countries have requested doses from the United States, but to date only Mexico and Canada have received a combined 4.5 million doses. The U.S. also has announced plans to share enough shots with South Korea to vaccinate its 550,000 troops who serve alongside American service members on the peninsula.

The broader U.S. sharing plan is still being finalized, a White House official said,

having been the subject of policy debate inside the White House and across the federal government, and also involving COVAX and other outside stakeholders like drug manufacturers and logistics experts.

“Our nation’s going to be the arsenal of vaccines for the rest of the world,” Biden said on May 17, when he announced the U.S. pledge to share more doses. He added that, compared to other countries like Russia and China that have sought to leverage their domestically produced doses, “we will not use our vaccines to secure favors from other countries.”

Still, the partnership with the South Korean military points to

Forecast: Global economy rebounding, faces multiple threats

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The global economic rebound from the pandemic has picked up speed but remains uneven across countries and faces multiple headwinds. Most worrisome: the lack of vaccines in poorer nations, which could lead to new virus variants and more stop-and-go lockdowns.

Those were key points from the latest economic outlook published Monday by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The OECD said that relief and stimulus measures in the more developed world had done much to get the economy through the pandemic recession and back on the path of growth. It forecast global output would rise 5.8%, raising its forecast from 4.8% during its

previous outlook in December. This year’s predicted rebound follows last year’s contraction of 3.5%, and would be the fastest since 1973.

The U.S. economy was expected to grow 6.9%, upgraded from a previously forecast 6.5%. The OECD cited wide-ranging support from government spending on additional unemployment benefits, financial assistance for local governments and support for low-income households.

OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said that economic prospects “have improved considerably in recent months, and the outlook is brightening ... however, the health situation remains highly uncertain.”

“The first and main risk ... remains the virus,” she said.

Although the OECD said

most individual countries would reach pre-pandemic levels of output by the end of 2022, it cautioned that “this is far from enough.”

It said that the global economy had not reached the growth level that would have been reached without a pandemic. And the report said that too many countries would not see living standards reach pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022.

The Paris-based organization listed several threats to the recovery, including lack of vaccines in poorer countries that have fewer resources for relief efforts. “A renewed virus-driven weakening of growth would be harder to cushion, resulting in further increases in acute poverty” and raising the risk of financial crisis, the OECD said in

its forecast report.

“This is all the more troubling because, notwithstanding the impact on lives and livelihoods, the global economic and social cost of maintaining closed borders dwarfs the costs of making vaccines, tests and health supplies more widely available to these countries.”

As long as the vast majority of the global population is not vaccinated, the report said, “all of us remain vulnerable to the emergence of new variants.”

The report said there had been much recent discussion of possible higher inflation but argued that production bottlenecks and other disruptions to trading in goods should be temporary and would start to fade by the end of the year as production capacity is restored.

Nation

A nation slowly emerging from pandemic honors Memorial Day

A nation slowly emerging from social distancing measures imposed by the coronavirus pandemic honored generations of U.S. veterans killed in the line of duty on a Memorial Day observed without the severe pandemic restrictions that affected the day of tribute just a year ago.

Memorial Day parades and events were held in localities large and small across the country Monday, many resuming after being canceled last year as the pandemic hit with full force.

At Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, President Joe Biden delivered a solemn speech honoring the 1 million Americans killed in service of the nation—and challenged that nation to carry on that fight by defending its democracy.

"This nation was built on an idea," Biden said. "We were built on an idea, the idea of liberty and opportunity for all. We've never fully realized that aspiration of our founders, but every generation has opened the door a little wider."

"The struggle for democracy is taking place around the world—democracy and autocracy. The struggle for decency, dignity, just simple decency," Biden declared.

This year's remembrances were as painful, if less restrictive, as those held on Memorial Day 2020, when Americans settled for small processions and online tributes instead of parades. The pandemic last year forced communities to honor the nation's military

dead with modest, more subdued ceremonies that also remembered those lost to the coronavirus.

With restrictions lifting, Americans paid tribute in public gatherings this year—and like last year, they also remembered the thousands of veterans who died from COVID-19. Still, there were some vestiges: An early morning wreath laying ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona was shared virtually.

That wasn't the case at a long-delayed veterans and airmen's reunion in West Hills, California, a Los Angeles suburb where veterans gathered face to face for the first time Monday since their weekly reunions were shut down 14 months ago by the pandemic.

"This is a special group of veterans who are trying not to be homebound," Ed Reynolds, a Vietnam War and Air Force veteran, told KTLA-TV. "It's good to see these faces again. It's sort of emotional," he said, visibly emotional himself.

Reynolds said some 12 members of the group had died over the past year, though none of them from COVID-19.

For a select few, the Memorial Day weekend marked the final farewell, decades in the making, of the remains of fallen heroes from World War II. They included two Kentucky men—U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Welborn L. Ashby, who was killed at 24, and U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Howard Scott Magers, killed at 18—who perished in the December 7, 1941, Japa-



AP
Andrew Weston touches the gravestone of his uncle, U.S. Army Vietnam war veteran Thomas Shaun Monahan, at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021 in Elwood, Ill.

nese attack on Pearl Harbor. Some 2,403 Americans died in the attack.

Magers' remains arrived in Barren County on Saturday after they were identified by the federal Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. He was laid to rest with full military honors, the Daily News reported.

A Memorial Day service was being held for Ashby in Beaver Dam, followed by burial at Centertown Cemetery with full military honors, including a "Missing Man" flyover by vintage planes.

In Tennessee, the body

of U.S. Marine Capt. Glenn Walker, one of more than 1,100 Marines killed in the 1943 Pacific Battle of Tarawa, is coming home, his family told The Tennessean this weekend. The family plans a reunion and burial in July.

"I get emotional when I think of the life he could have had," said Walker's nephew Lane Martin. "The good is that we've reached out to family all over the country and drawn us back together."

In Florida, former President Donald Trump joined in remembering the country's fallen heroes.

'Leave the building': Texas walkout escalates voting battles

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Midnight was coming fast. Any moment now, the Texas House of Representatives would sign off on one of the most restrictive new voting laws in America.

It was 10:35 p.m. Suddenly, every Democrat still on the floor got a text message.

"Members, take your key and leave the chamber discreetly. Do not go to the gallery. Leave the building."

The walkout was a go, and minutes later, Senate Bill 7 was dead. Left without enough House members to conduct business under the rules before a midnight deadline Sunday, Texas Republicans were forced to abandon for now an elections overhaul they had crammed with previously unseen restrictions during closed-door negotiations, including one prohibiting Sunday morning early voting—a time widely used by Black

churchgoers in "souls to the polls" campaigns.

It was a dramatic, last-ditch revolt: One by one, Democrats headed for the exits and disappeared down corridors. The voting machines on their abandoned desks were locked. In the unlikely event of a "call of the House"—an extreme remedy to secure a quorum, mobilizing state troopers to forcibly bring absent members back—Democrats chose a hideout that was unmistakable in meaning: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, a Black house of worship more than 2 miles (3.22 kilometers) away.

The rebellion gave Democrats and voting rights allies nationwide a morale-raising moment after months of racking up losses in GOP-controlled statehouses, where Republicans have rushed to enact a wave of strict voting laws in response to former President Donald Trump's false claims

that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

But the walkout in Texas is likely only a fleeting victory: Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who had declared new voting laws a priority in Texas, barely waited for every Democrat to flee the House floor before declaring that he would order a special session to finish the job. And he's already begun punishing lawmakers, saying Monday that he would veto the part of the state budget that funds legislators' salaries.

"No pay for those who abandon their responsibilities," Abbott tweeted.

He has not said when he will drag lawmakers back to work.

"I understand why they were doing it," said Republican state Rep. Briscoe Cain, who carried the bill in the House. "But we all took an oath to Texans that we would be here to do our jobs."

Coming in at 67 pages long, the Texas bill would have reduced polling hours, empowered poll watchers and scaled back ways to vote. It included a ban on drive-thru voting centers and 24-hour polling places, both of which were used last year around Houston, reflecting how Republicans went after Texas' largest Democratic stronghold.

Many were ideas that Democrats had spent months fighting, but they protested that others were snuck in at the last minute. That included not just new early voting limits for Sunday but also a provision that could make it easier to overturn an election. Under the bill, a judge could void a candidate's victory if the number of fraudulent votes cast could change the outcome, regardless of whether it was proved that the fraud actually had affected the result.

Mobile vaccination units hit tiny US towns to boost immunity

FALLON, Nev. (AP)—Pick-up truck drivers motor up to a white trailer in a parking lot on Fallon Paiute-Shoshone land in Nevada's high desert and within a few moments they're handed forms to sign, jabbed with coronavirus vaccine and sent on their way.

The pop-up clinic 60 miles (96 kilometers) east of Reno is one of 28 locations in the state where the Federal Emergency Management Agency has dispatched mobile vaccination units to ensure people in far-flung rural areas and one stop-light towns can get inoculated.

It's one of the tactics health officials are using across the country to counter waning interest in vaccinations. In tiny towns, churches, ballparks, strip clubs and even marijuana dispensaries, officials are setting up shop and offering incentives to entice people as the nation struggles to reach herd immunity.

In Nevada, health officials acknowledge they're unlikely to hit their initial goal of vaccinating 75% of the population believed necessary to reach herd immunity. Ironically, their push in northern Nevada is headquartered at the Reno Livestock Events Center, where 65-year-old Dan Lavelly and others are showing up for shots.

Lavelly said he teared up while thanking the nurses who vaccinated him.

"I told them I was just so thankful that they were volunteering their time to help get us back to normal so I can go shop at the mall or go to the beach at Lake Tahoe," said Lavelly, who works at a big box store in neighboring Sparks. Waiting to get vaccinated had nothing to do with safety concerns or distrust of the government, he said.

"It was a scheduling deal. Plus, my middle name is procrastinator," Lavelly said.

Two FEMA mobile trailers have meandered through Nevada to towns without pharmacies, clinics or other vaccination sites, giving doctors, nurses and National Guardsmen a first-hand look at rural and tribal communities where finding vaccinations has been difficult for residents.

"That's our philosophy: it doesn't make any difference if there are two (people) nor 200," said Peggy Franklin, a volunteer nurse who has traveled alongside a FEMA trailer to Fallon, Alamo, Panaca and other towns.

To preserve the vaccine, the trailers are equipped with ultra-cold refrigerators powered by generators-on-wheels. On Monday, the two mobile clinics completed six-week loops through Nevada that included returning to finish two-shot regimens in the state that covers an area that would stretch from Boston to Baltimore and Buffalo, N.Y.

Asia

TO COPE WITH AGING SOCIETY

China easing birth limits further

BEIJING (AP)—China's ruling Communist Party said Monday it will ease birth limits to allow all couples to have three children instead of two in hopes of slowing the rapid aging of its population, which is adding to strains on the economy and society.

The ruling party has enforced birth limits since 1980 to restrain population growth but worries the number of working-age people is falling too fast while the share over age 65 is rising. That threatens to disrupt its ambitions to transform China into a prosperous consumer society and global technology leader.

A ruling party meeting led by President Xi Jinping decided to introduce "measures to actively deal with the aging population," the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said leaders agreed "implementing the policy of one couple can have three children and supporting measures are conducive to improving China's population structure."

Leaders also agreed China needs to raise its retirement age to keep more people in the workforce and improve pension and health services for the elderly, Xinhua said.

Restrictions that limited most couples to one child were eased in 2015 to allow



An elderly man plays with children near a commercial office building in Beijing on May 10, 2021.

two, but the total number of births fell further, suggesting rule changes on their own have little impact on the trend.

Couples say they are put off by high costs of raising a child, disruption to their jobs and the need to look after elderly parents.

Comments on social media Monday complained the change does nothing to help young parents with medical bills, low incomes and grueling work schedules known popularly as "996," or 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week.

"Every stage of the problem hasn't been solved," said a post on the popular Sina Weibo blog service signed Tchaikovsky. "Who will raise the baby? Do you have time? I

go out early and get back late. Kids don't know what their parents look like."

Another, signed Hyeongmok, joked bitterly: "Don't worry about aging. Our generation won't live long."

China, along with Thailand and some other Asian economies, faces what economists call the challenge of whether they can get rich before they get old.

The Chinese population of 1.4 billion already was expected to peak later this decade and start to decline. Census data released May 11 suggest that is happening faster than expected, adding to burdens on underfunded pension and health systems and cutting the number of future workers available to support a growing retiree group.

Morrison said. "But neither of us would ever trade our sovereignty or trade our values. We have stood side-by-side to defend and protect and promote these values. Not just on the beaches of Gallipoli but in Afghanistan and so many other places around the world."

Ardern said New Zealand maintained a strong and principled stance toward China on human rights and trade, and its positions were very similar to Australia's.

She said New Zealand remains a committed member of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance with Australia, the U.S., Britain and Canada.

"That is not in question, not in doubt," she said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the two leaders had made "irresponsible remarks" about China's internal affairs concerning Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety.

The two were guilty of "seriously violating international law and basic norms of international

relations, and grossly interfering in China's internal affairs," Wang said at a daily briefing.

Morrison said Australia works closely with New Zealand in the Five Eyes partnership and many other international forums.

"I think as great partners, friends, allies, indeed family, there will be those far from here who would seek to divide us," Morrison said. "And they will not succeed."

Morrison said it was self-evident there was increased strategic competition between the U.S. and China but that didn't need to lead to conflict.

Both leaders said they hope the World Health Organization will continue its investigation into the origins of the pandemic.

"It's got nothing to do with global politics," Morrison said. "This has nothing to do with anything other than ensuring that the global pandemic, which has caused such havoc around the world, stealing lives and livelihoods, that we understand how this occurred so we can do everything we possibly can to ensure that it does not happen again."

World

UN WATCHDOG:

Access to Iranian nuclear data lacking since Feb. 23

VIENNA (AP)—The United Nations' atomic watchdog hasn't been able to access data important to monitoring Iran's nuclear program since late February when the Islamic Republic started restricting international inspections of its facilities, the agency said Monday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency reported in a confidential document distributed to member countries and seen by The Associated Press that it has "not had access to the data from its online enrichment monitors and electronic seals, or had access to the measurement recordings registered by its installed measurement devices" since Feb. 23.

While the IAEA and Iran earlier acknowledged the restrictions limited access to surveillance cameras at Iranian facilities, Monday's report indicated they went much further. The IAEA acknowledged it could only provide an estimate of Iran's overall nuclear stockpile as it continues to enrich uranium at its

highest level ever.

Iran started limiting inspections in a bid to put pressure on the government of U.S. President Joe Biden to lift crippling sanctions reimposed after then President Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran unilaterally in 2018.

Under the deal, the IAEA placed around 2,000 tamper-proof seals on nuclear material and equipment. Those seals communicated electronically to inspectors. Automated measuring devices also provided real-time data from the program.

Talks are currently underway in Vienna for the U.S. to rejoin the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

Since the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement, Iran has been steadily violating its various restrictions, including on the types of centrifuges it's allowed to use, the amount of enriched uranium it is allowed to stockpile, and the purity to which it is allowed to enrich.

In the IAEA report, the agency for the first time released estimates of Iran's stockpile rather than precise figures, saying that as of May 22, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was 3,241 kilograms (7,145 pounds), up about 273 kilograms (600 pounds) from the last quarterly report.

That was down from an increase of nearly 525 kilograms (1,157 pounds) reported in the last quarterly report.

Though it wasn't immediately clear what led to the decrease, it comes as an explosion in April at its underground Natanz nuclear facility affected centrifuges there. Iran has yet to offer a full accounting of what happened in an attack it described as "nuclear terrorism." Israel, which is widely suspected of carrying out the assault, hasn't commented publicly on it.

The nuclear deal signed in 2015 with the United States, Germany, France, Britain, China and Russia only permits Iran only to keep a total stockpile of 202.8 kilograms (447 pounds) of enriched uranium.

Canada: Bodies at Indigenous school not isolated incident

TORONTO (AP)—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Monday it's not an isolated incident that over 200 children were found buried at a former Indigenous residential school.

Trudeau's comments come as Indigenous leaders are calling for an examination of every former residential school site—institutions that held children taken from families across the nation.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia said the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were confirmed this month with the help of ground-penetrating radar. She described the discovery as "an unthinkable loss that was spoken about but never documented" at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, the largest such school in the country.

"As prime minister, I am appalled by the shameful policy that stole Indigenous children from their communities," Trudeau said.

"Sadly, this is not an exception or an isolated inci-

dent," he said. "We're not going to hide from that. We have to acknowledge the truth. Residential schools were a reality—a tragedy that existed here, in our country, and we have to own up to it. Kids were taken from their families, returned damaged or not returned at all."

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant. Many students recalled being beaten for speaking their native languages. They also lost touch with their parents and customs.

Indigenous leaders have cited that legacy of abuse and isolation as the root cause of ep-

idemic rates of alcoholism and drug addiction on reservations.

Plans are underway to bring in forensics experts to identify and repatriate the remains of the children found buried on the Kamloops site.

Trudeau said he'll be talking to his ministers about further things his government needs to do to support survivors and the community. Flags at all federal buildings are at half-staff.

Opposition New Democrat leader Jagmeet Singh called Monday for an emergency debate in Parliament.

"This is not a surprise. This is a reality of residential schools," Singh said.

"215 Indigenous kids were found in an unmarked mass grave," he said. "Anytime we think about unmarked mass graves, we think about a distant country where a genocide has happened. This is not a distant country."

The Kamloops school operated between 1890 and 1969, when the federal government took over operations from the Catholic Church and operated it as a day school until it closed in 1978.

Down Under leaders minimize China split, urge virus probe

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The leaders of New Zealand and Australia downplayed their differences over China and urged more investigation into the origin of the coronavirus Monday after their first face-to-face meeting in more than a year.

The two leaders also indicated an Australian-born mass murderer would remain imprisoned in New Zealand.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison met with his New Zealand counterpart, Jacinda Ardern, in the tourist resort of Queenstown. Morrison was the first major world leader to visit New Zealand since both countries closed their borders last year to keep out the virus.

Australia has taken a hard stance against China in recent years and the relationship between the nations has deteriorated. New Zealand has opted for a more diplomatic approach at times, which some say is too soft.

But Morrison said he and Ardern had similar philosophies.

"Australia and New Zealand are trading nations,"

Good Housekeeping

By JAMES P. DEWAN
THE DAILY MEAL

Like all things you’ve never done before, grilling fish can be ... challenging. Don’t expect perfection your first time out; do expect to learn and improve with every go-round.

Why is fish hard to grill?

Fish is expensive and irritatingly easy to render inedible. Too much heat or too much time can turn those fillets from flaky to bulletproof in a New York minute.

The problem with fish is that its flesh is more delicate than sturdy land animals and therefore more susceptible to heavy-handedness. It’s because fish live—and I don’t think this will come as any surprise—in water. Without getting too scientific and boring, creatures that live in cold, gravity-defying liquid environments require less connective tissue as well as less (and different) fat than creatures who live on land.

But here’s the thing about fat: It’s largely what makes the meat juicy. Think about that well-marbled steak you had last week. Juicy as a blind item in a gossip rag, right? That’s the fat. And there’s more of it in beef muscle than there is in fish muscle.

Of course, fish also has water in its muscle—about three-quarters of its weight—and that water evaporates when you start heating up the fish.

Between the lack of fat and the evaporation of the water, it’s pretty easy to take a beautiful piece of fish and render it drier than dry.

Hence, the single best piece of advice to keep in mind when you’re grilling is to keep an eye on the temperature of the fish. Remember, if it’s a little underdone, you can always throw it back on the grill.

Grilling whole fish vs. fish fillets

Before I tell you how to actually grill fish, I should address the differences between grilling whole fish and fish fillets.

There are plenty of reasons to grill whole fish. For one, whole fish makes for an arresting presentation. Furthermore, whole fish tend to be more forgiving of heat. The skin keeps the flesh from drying out and the bones—because they conduct heat rather poorly—aid in keeping the internal temperature down. However, whole fish can be harder to come by than fillets—and more intimidating.

If you’re going with fillets, go with a thick, sturdy fish like salmon, tuna or mahi mahi. They don’t need to be cooked all the way through and won’t fall apart when you flip them on the grill. If you like to keep the skin on, especially if you’re doing something like salmon, grill your fish skin side down for most of the cooking time. After you flip them, let them go for just another minute or two. That will give you nice, crisp skin with fillets cooked to your perfect level of doneness.

If you only have skinny little fillets, but you’re dying to fire up the grill, you can always fold them in foil and place that nice little package on the grate. If you go this route, place a layer of lemon slices over the top of the fillets before you encase them in foil. It’ll help keep them moist and look pretty when you serve them.

How to grill fish in 5 easy steps

1. Before you cook, clean your grill with a wire brush!!!
2. To prevent your fish from sticking to the grill, brush it on both sides with any cooking oil. Some people like mayonnaise instead of oil (see recipe below). The seasoning adheres to it nicely and it also prevents your fish from sticking to the grill. Speaking of seasoning, season your fish with salt and other spices, like pepper, Old Bay or your own spice mix. Just remember, if your spice mix has salt, don’t salt the fish separately.
3. Get your grill going to medium-high heat, then set your grill grate over the heat source so it gets nice and hot.
4. Place your oiled (or mayoed) fish onto the grill, presentation side down. The presentation side is the side you want your diners to see. With skinless fillets, the presentation side is the bone side because the skin side will still have some connective tissue attached to the flesh. That’s not a big deal; it just doesn’t look as nice.
- If you’re doing a whole fish, like red snapper or sea bass, oil it up and lay it down.
5. The rule of thumb for cooking fish is roughly 5 minutes per side for a one-inch-thick fillet. If you have a meat thermometer, use it. You want an internal temperature of about 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The flesh will be mostly opaque with just a glistening hint of translucence. Of course, the doneness level of fish is a personal decision. The more you grill fish, the more you’ll understand what you like and how to achieve it.
- Once your fish is done, remove it immediately to a warm serving platter and let it rest for just a few minutes. Garnish it with



(KATHERINE MARTINELLI/THE DAILY MEAL/TNS)
Mayo grilled salmon.

How to grill fish

» Everything you need to know for a successful pescatarian cookout

a squeeze of lemon, a pat of butter or anything else you think would be festive and serve it immediately. Regardless of how it turns out this time, remember what you did so that next time, it’ll be even better.

MAYO GRILLED SALMON

For the most attractive presentation, skinless salmon is served bone side (as opposed to “skin side”) up. Grill roughly 8 to 10 minutes total, flipping once, for 1-inch fillets. Salmon is done when an instant read thermometer registers 140F or when the interior is just becoming opaque. You can use the tip of a knife to separate flakes at the fillet’s thickest part to check doneness.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Makes 4 servings

4 (5-ounce) salmon fillets, preferably skinless

Mayonnaise as needed (about 1/4 to 1/2 cup)

Salt as needed

Pepper as needed

Freshly lemon slices as needed (optional)

Parsley, minced, as needed (optional)

1. Preheat grill. Season bone side of salmon fillets with salt and pepper.
2. Brush or spread mayonnaise in a thin layer over both sides.
3. Place fillets bone side down on grill grate directly over medium hot coals. Grill for 4 to 5 minutes, then flip and grill the other side to preferred doneness, about 4 more minutes.
4. Remove fillets to a warm platter to rest 3 to 5 minutes. While fillets rest, squeeze lemon over. Garnish fillets with optional minced parsley and serve immediately.

10 easy design ideas under \$100

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

What’s wonderful about interior design is that it doesn’t always have to be expensive to look expensive. If you’re looking for affordable ways to refresh your space, here are some Design Recipes hacks, all under \$100.

1. Mirrors as a headboard

Whether you are using mirrors horizontally to widen a space, vertically to add height or in a grid pattern to mimic windows, this is a great way to bounce light and color in a space.

2. Removable wallpaper

Wallpaper remains a hot trend. Not sure you want to take the plunge? Try using a removable or temporary wallpaper.

3. Incorporate industrial elements

Industrial pipe can be used for everything from ladder rungs to help hold up shelves.

4. Curtains made from drop cloths

Who doesn’t love no-sew curtains? Drop cloths are the perfect weight of cotton for a curtain, especially for those looking for privacy. Grab some drapery pins and attach them to a rod, add grommets, and you’re good to go!

5. Repurposed items as shelves

From recycled wood to skateboards in a child’s room or family space, it’s time to get creative.

6. Succulents in sand

Tiny succulents are hearty enough to be around for weeks, if not months. Pair them with plain white sand in a glass jar or vessel and you have a beautiful accent piece for your home.

7. Affordable side tables and carts

Bar carts or side tables don’t have to be traditional. Garden stools and carts can be used as side tables and decorative accents.

8. Rice paper or other items placed in shadow boxes or plexiglass

Rice paper is both modern and neutral. One creative idea is to place large pieces in frames.

9. Wine glasses as candle holders

This is my new “it” idea. Just take wine glasses, flip them over and place a small votive on the bottom, which now serves as the base for your candle. Put something decorative under the mouth of the glass for an even more creative look!

10. Removable wall stickers

These are so much fun and can add instant color and graphics to a space.

Life & Style

John Davis, real singer behind Milli Vanilli, dies at 66

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—John Davis, one of the real singers behind the lip-synching pop duo Milli Vanilli, died of the coronavirus this week, according to his family. He was 66.

Davis died on Monday in Nuremberg, Germany, where he had lived and performed for a long time, his daughter Jasmin Davis said in a Facebook post.

"We are so incredibly sad and heartbroken," Davis told The Associated Press in a Facebook message.

Davis was credited with backup vocals but was really a lead singer on albums by Milli Vanilli, whose expeditious ascension into the music world was followed by an equally rapid fall.

Following the debut single "Girl You Know It's True" and No. 1 hits including "Blame It On the Rain" and "Girl I'm Gonna Miss You," Fabrice Morvan and Rob Pilatus won the 1989 Best New Artist Grammy Award.

When it was revealed that neither actually sang on Milli Vanilli records, the group was stripped of the Grammy months later and disbanded, reforming as Rob and Fab in 1991, but achieving little commercial success. The duo faced legal challenges, including a successful lawsuit from the 1960s-era band Blood, Sweat and Tears, which accused Morvan and Pilatus of stealing the melody of "Spinning Wheel" for "Girl You Know It's True."

Dancing like there's no COVID-19: Paris hosts test concert

PARIS (AP)—Thousands of people, masked and tested for the coronavirus, packed inside a Paris arena for a concert Saturday as part of a public health experiment to prepare France to host big events again.

The show at AccorHotels Arena in eastern Paris features 1980s French rock band Indochine and DJ Etienne de Crecy. But the attention was mostly on the concert-goers.

The Paris public hospital authority helped organize the event to determine whether it's safe to allow 5,000 masked people to dance together in the open pit of an indoor concert arena without social distancing.

The attendees are seeing the show for free but were

required to take three virus tests, two before and one after the concert. To further reduce risk, organizers only allowed people 18-45 years old without underlying health conditions to participate, according to the hospital authority.

France has not allowed such music concerts since early 2020. Cultural venues were shut for most of the past 14 months as authorities tried to contain persistent surges of virus infections that filled hospitals and were linked to more than 109,000 deaths.

France's COVID-19 hospitalization rates and confirmed cases have steadily shrank in recent weeks as vaccinations increase.

Group: Spot where car hit 'School of Rock' actor is unsafe

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago intersection where an actor who appeared in the movie "School of Rock" was killed while riding his bicycle was flagged three years ago by a traffic safety group as "notoriously unsafe and hazardous" by a traffic safety group, but it says no improvements were made.

In its 2018 study, the Active Transportation Alliance identified the intersection in the Avondale neighborhood on the city's northwest side as a "high-crash area" because of its poor visibility and heavy traffic.

Kevin Clark, who played drummer Freddy "Spazzy McGee" Jones in the 2003 movie starring Jack Black, was struck



by a car at the intersection Wednesday and declared dead at a hospital. Police said a wit-

AP
In a photo provided by Russ Boxer, Kevin Clark plays drums as Jess Bess & The Intentions performs at a bar in Highwood, Ill., May 22, 2021.

ness told officers that Clark, who was 32, was riding east on Logan Boulevard when he ran a red light and was struck by a vehicle crossing Logan at Western Avenue.

Authorities said the 20-year-old driver who struck Clark was issued several citations, and the accident remains under investigation.

Clark's death led the transportation alliance to renew its calls for safety improvements at the

location, which runs partly under the Kennedy Expressway.

"We can only hope that we see an immediate response before another tragedy happens," Jim Merrell, the advocacy nonprofit's managing director told the Chicago Sun-Times. "This didn't have to happen."

Merrill said the group made several recommendations to make the intersection, which runs partly under the Kennedy Expressway, safer but that none have been put in place.

Clark was at least the second bicyclist known to have been killed at the intersection. Tyler Fabeck, 22, was struck and killed by a driver there in April 2008.

La Scala announces 2021-21 season, with hope of fewer limits

MILAN (AP)—Milan's famed Teatro alla Scala on Monday announced a 2021-22 season of 13 operas, seven ballets and numerous concerts as Italy's most important theater looks toward a gradual removal of pandemic restrictions.

Audiences returned to La Scala last month, and, in the next significant step, the theater will remove flooring from the main seating area where the full orchestra has been playing at a social distance on risers and with plexiglass dividers separating woodwind and brass musicians.

"It will be the end of this horrendous experience," said La Scala's music director, Riccardo Chailly.

The conductor has been placed about 30 meters from musicians, and the musicians have been spaced at a distance

where they can't properly hear each other to play, especially challenging during complicated executions, Chailly noted.

"It means creating music of 100 musicians without the possibility of hearing. This hasn't been emphasized enough. The

orchestra made a huge effort, and no one fell into emotional excess," Chailly said, giving them both praise and thanks.

For the moment, the theater that seats around 2,000 people is limited to 500 audience members. The timing of fur-

ther loosening of restrictions is up to government officials, general manager Dominique Meyer emphasized. But for the fall conclusion of the 2020-21 season, La Scala is focusing on music that requires less than a full orchestra to facilitate any future distancing requirements.

Chailly, will conduct Verdi's "Macbeth" for the traditional Dec. 7 gala season-opener, following last year's gala appearance of opera stars singing duets and arias for a broadcast event from a mostly empty theater. The hope is that the new season will open with the traditional pomp of the VIP event, one of the most anticipated on the European cultural calendar. Russian soprano Anna Netrebko headlines as Lady Macbeth, alongside Italian baritone Luca Salsi in the title role and tenor Francesco Meli as Macduff.



AP
A view of the Milan La Scala opera house during a press conference to present 2021/2022 season, in Milan, Italy, Monday, May 31, 2021.

Sexual assault victim seeks distance from perpetrator

DEAR ABBY: I was sexually assaulted by my cousin's boyfriend a short while ago, and it was hard for me to process. When I told my cousin about it, she acknowledged that it wasn't OK, but made it all about her. Although we are extremely close, I didn't get the type of support I was hoping for. In the end, she got back with him, and casually contacts me trying to sweep things under the rug.

I have been sitting on a message for a couple of weeks that I want to send to her, telling her I don't want to be in contact with her for a while. It's hard for me, because we're family. Because nobody knows the whole story, everyone is quick to think I'm the one "isolating" her from my life. What do I do, Abby?

STUCK AND LOST IN NEW YORK

DEAR STUCK AND LOST: The person who assaulted you is a predator, and your cousin appears to be clueless. Inform her that, under the circumstances, as long as her boyfriend is in the picture, you will be keeping your distance because you no longer feel safe around him.

And please, rather than stay silent about what her boyfriend did to you, TELL your friends and family what happened. Contact the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network for support and guidance. (It's the largest anti-sexual violence organization in the U.S.) The toll-free number to call is 1-800-656-HOPE, or if you prefer, chat online at rainn.org. Whether you were assaulted or raped, file a police report so it will be on record in case he does it to

someone else, which he may.

DEAR ABBY: My son and daughter-in-law are divorcing after almost 10 years. We love them both, and the divorce is amicable. They own a home, and my DIL is staying there.

My son is very easygoing and doesn't need the "finer" things in life. He has a truck. He built a small camper in the back, and there is a camper shell. We have asked him to move back in with us. He's going to school with about two years to go, and also works a full-time job. They had a fair amount of savings, but he doesn't want to buy a house right now. He thinks that since he is happy living in his truck, he should do that rather than waste money on an apartment. Rent is very high in our area so I understand, but we have a finished basement that he could live in.

I worry about him sleeping in his truck every night, so I text him every night with a quick note. Am I being too much of a "helicopter mom"? I realize he has lived on his own since he was 19. (He is now 34.)

LOVING PARENT IN UTAH

DEAR PARENT: You have extended the offer. I assume that when the weather turns cold or he needs to take a shower or do a load of laundry, you have let him know that he is welcome to avail himself of your hospitality—and have a nice dinner—anytime he wishes. There are "helicopter" moms and "hell-i-copter" moms. You are neither. You are a loving, caring mom.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I need advice on hot tub etiquette. If I were to invite a nudist lady to soak with me in a hot tub, would it be impolite for me to ask her to wear a mask?

RAY IN NEW YORK

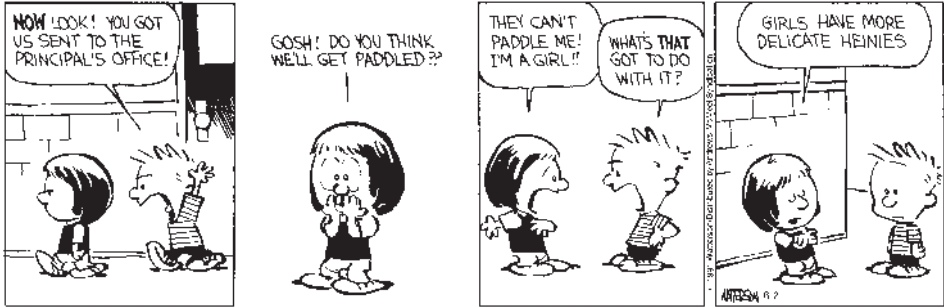
DEAR RAY (OF SUNSHINE ON A CLOUDY DAY): Thank you for writing. If you are unaware of someone's antibody status, do not invite ANY stranger to get naked with you unless you are wearing a full-body condom, regardless of how tempted you are.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

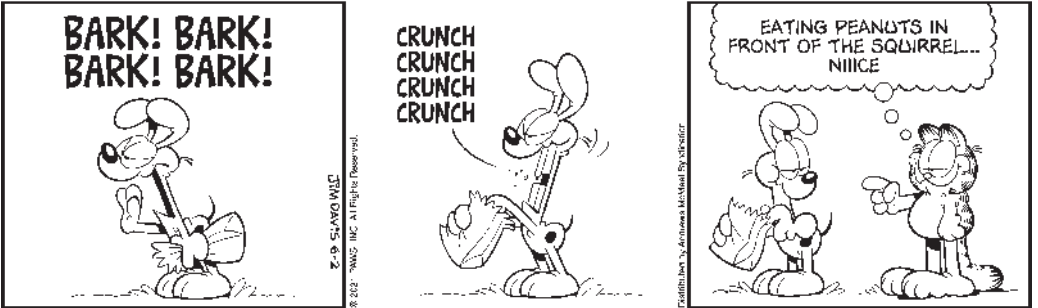
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

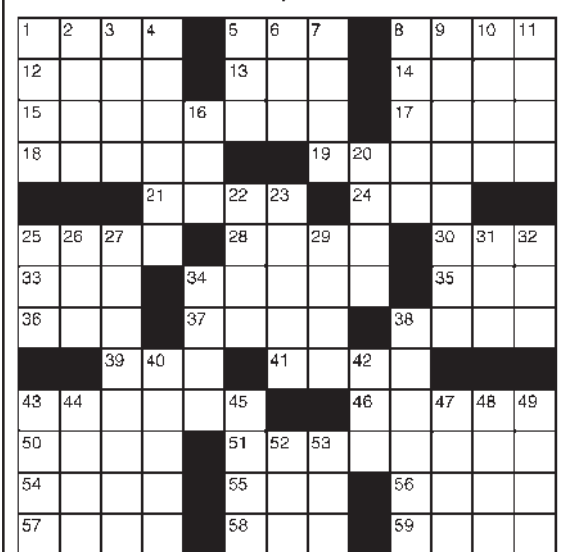
- 1 Scottish lake
- 5 Bro's sib
- 8 Lose color
- 12 Arsenal supply
- 13 Bat wood
- 14 Fresh
- 15 Hit song by Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande
- 17 Cruise stop
- 18 Less damp
- 19 High-flying battle
- 21 No neatnik
- 24 Sugary suffix
- 25 Sharpen
- 28 "Yankees"
- 30 HDTV brand
- 33 Whammy
- 34 Skeleton components
- 35 Sailor's chart
- 36 Tolkien ogre

DOWN

- 1 Cooking fat
- 2 Actor Sharif
- 3 Roman 902
- 4 Truthful
- 5 — Salvador
- 6 Doctrine
- 7 The Mets' old home
- 8 County expos
- 9 Parent's demand
- 10 Crème —
- 11 Ornamental jug
- 16 Magic, on scoreboards
- 20 Charged bits
- 22 Scent
- 23 African language group
- 25 One of the five W's
- 26 "In — Shoes" (Cameron Diaz film)
- 27 "My bad!"
- 29 GI dining hall
- 31 Rotating part
- 32 Smart-phone download
- 34 Innocent one
- 38 Clef type
- 40 Step
- 42 Blue hue
- 43 Farm fathers
- 44 Canal of song
- 45 Glum
- 47 Tournament passes
- 48 Latin 101 word
- 49 Nota —
- 52 Japanese pond fish
- 53 Piercing tool

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Awkwafina, 33; Zachary Quinto, 44; Dana Carvey, 66; Dennis Haysbert, 67.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and do things properly if you want to get ahead this year. Refuse to let anyone bully or manipulate you into doing something you don't want to do. Your happiness and success depend on you taking charge and following through with your plans. Put a strategy in place, and don't veer off course. Discipline leads to personal gain. Your numbers are 4, 12, 21, 26, 31, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Share only what's necessary. The less others know about you, the easier it will be to get things done. An intelligent approach will open doors and encourage greater opportunities. Don't argue over trivial matters. Your time is precious.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will help you see your situation from a different perspective. Take advantage of shared information and turn it into something you use to help you advance. A take-charge attitude will help you win favors and acceptance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Too much too fast will lead to disappointment. If you want something done, do it yourself. Don't rely on others or trust anyone with information that can thwart your plans. Concentrate on being your best; you'll reach your target.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on your ideas and finishing what you start.

A unique approach to something you enjoy doing will turn into a part of your everyday routine. A financial gain is apparent if you invest in yourself instead of others. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make a change for the right reason. Don't feel you have to do what others do. Head in a direction that makes you feel good about what you do and how you live. Honesty, coupled with charm, is the best policy. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be drawn to smooth talkers. Think twice before you let someone persuade you to do something that can affect your reputation or position. Rely on those who have always offered sound advice. Make self-improvement your objective. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the big picture. You are better off planning for the future with a fresh beginning. Let go of the burdens and responsibilities that don't belong to you. Stop worrying about what others think or say. Do your own thing. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Step outside your comfort zone and explore new possibilities. Refuse to let outside influences disrupt your plans. Don't allow unfinished business to deter you from getting what you want. Tie up loose ends quickly. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A methodical attitude will help you avoid trouble. Distance yourself from people who play emotional games and are bad influences on you. Say

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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no to indulgent behavior and yes to discipline and a healthy lifestyle. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll find an interesting way to put your skills to good use. A moneymaking deal based on something you do well will encourage you to start something new. A partnership can be advantageous if you delegate responsibilities equally. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone use emotional manipulation to get his or her way. Take a pragmatic approach to what you want to achieve, and set the standard for what's acceptable and what isn't. Personal improvement is encouraged. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll find it difficult to get along with everyone. Listen more and say less. Size up what's important to you and head down a path that leads to people who share your opinions and beliefs. Truth matters; don't make excuses for others. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are original, sensitive and chatty. You are earnest and studious.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/02

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ACCIDENTAL PHONE CALLS Solution: 5 letters

DUKKSSGNITTTESCC
LNLCTNEMTRAPMOC
EAOMOBILEEEIMNO
TWNPPLENPACMIVM
AAYGSVEIKRUUSEM
RRRBIIEWEONDFIRA
BERLGRSPIDAFNSD
ICOCGEHPCNNPLTAS
VISANOAEYOUYEETS
OPBINTTKROEDRII
IPEISHSSSKIPOT
CEVOICEMAILRRNT
ENNLRANDOMEEEI
STIMECSLLACTPN
DUOLLEHEPANTSOG

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Bags, Break, Calls, Commands, Communication, Compartment, Conversation, Direct, Hear, Hello, Keypad, Listen, Live, Lock, Loud, Microphone, Misinterpret, Mobile, Muffled, Open, Pants, Pouch, Purse, Random, Recipient, Respond, Screen, Settings, Signal, Sitting, Sorry, Sound, Speaker, Stop, Swipe, Talk, Time, Unaware, Vibrate, Voicemail, Voices

Yesterday's Answer: Swarmededons

Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Mitchell scores 30, Jazz beat Memphis to go up 3-1



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, and the top-seeded Utah Jazz grabbed a 3-1 lead Monday night by holding off the Memphis Grizzlies 120-113.

Now the team with the NBA's best record in the regular season can close out this first round, best-of-seven series Wednesday night in Game 5 in Salt Lake City.

All-Star Rudy Gobert scored 13 of his 17 points in the third quarter. Jordan Clarkson, the NBA's 6th man of the year winner, scored 24. Bojan Bogdanovic added 13, Mike Conley had 11.

Ja Morant, who averaged 33.7 points through the first three games, scored 23 and had 12 assists for Memphis. Dillon Brooks and Jaren Jackson Jr. each added 21, De'Anthony Melton had all 15 of his points in the fourth quarter and Jonas Valanciunas finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Memphis opened the fourth quarter on a 12-2 run, taking advantage as the Jazz missed their first nine shots from the floor. Melton hit 5 of 7 shots in the period — including a trio of 3s. His 3 with 5:30 left got the Grizzlies within 106-104.

Conley, with former Grizzlies teammates Zach Randolph and Tony Allen on hand, ended the Jazz' scoring drought with a 3. The Jazz went 3 of 16 in the fourth but 11 of 12 at the free throw line. Mitchell hit all six and finished 12 of 13 at the line.

Memphis had another raucous, loud crowd waving growl towels that proclaimed "I'm On My Grizzly" quoting rapper J. Cole.

The Grizzlies had their best start to a game in this series,

scoring the first four points and leading by as much as four. Better yet, Utah never led by more than five and was up only 34-31 after the first quarter.

Yet Memphis, the youngest team in this postseason, never led by more than four. Utah showed off its talent and experience answering each Grizzlies' run.

The teams swapped the lead 11 times with seven ties in the first half. The Jazz used a 13-2 run to take their biggest lead at 59-50 on back-to-back 3s by Mitchell before Morant scored the final four of the half to trim Utah's lead to 59-54.

The Grizzlies got within 72-71 with 7:03 left in the third. Gobert's three-point play started a 13-2 spurt, and Utah led 100-87 after three.

Wizards 122, 76ers 114

In Washington, after the Philadelphia 76ers lost NBA MVP finalist Joel Embiid to what the team called a sore right knee late in the first quarter Monday night, they lost their lead — and their chance at the franchise's first playoff sweep in 36 years.

With Embiid gone for most of Game 4, Bradley Beal's 27 points, Russell Westbrook's 12th career playoff triple-double and Washington's strategy of fouling Ben Simmons whenever possible down the stretch all helped the Wizards beat the 76ers 122-114 to cut Philadelphia's series edge to 3-1.

"Each guy thought they had to win the game for us," 76ers coach Doc Rivers said about what happened to his team's offense after Embiid departed. "You've still got to play right. ... Tonight we didn't play right, on either end."

Asked for more information about Embiid's knee, Rivers said, "I really don't know,"



AP
Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots in the second half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Memphis Grizzlies, Monday, May 31, 2021, in Memphis, Tenn.

basically took the ball out of Philadelphia's hands, sending Simmons to the line repeatedly down the stretch with a version of the old Hack-a-Shaq strategy that Shaquille O'Neal used to face.

"Obviously that's what they're going to do. That's what they should do," Rivers said. "And I'm OK with that."

Simmons came into the night 0 for 9 on free throws in the series and was 1 for 3 for the night before Hack-a-Ben went into full effect — he made 1 of 2 tries each of the final four times he stepped to the line to end up 5 for 11.

Tobias Harris led the 76ers with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Simmons had 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Asked by a reporter about keeping Simmons in the game while Washington repeatedly fouled him, Rivers replied: "You want me to take Ben Simmons off the floor? No. He's pretty good. I'll pass on that suggestion."

Rui Hachimura had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Wizards, including a corner 3 off an assist from Beal to put the home team up 118-112 with 45.6 seconds left.

"He's growing up, right in front of our eyes," Brooks said about 2019 first-round draft pick Hachimura.

As the clock wound down, a chant of "Wiz in 7!" arose from some in the crowd of 10,665—about 50% of capacity and the most allowed under current coronavirus restrictions.

and added that some "precautionary" tests will be done Tuesday.

Tobias Harris, who led the Sixers with 21 points and 13 rebounds, summed up his club's situation this way: "It's not the end of the world."

Simmons' take? "Obviously," Simmons said, "we need Joel to win. He's a big part of this team."

Game 5 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference first-round series is Wednesday at Philadelphia.

Won't be easy for that one to be as eventful as this one was, including the third-quarter sight of a spectator running out of the stands and onto the court before being slammed to the ground by a security guard — the latest example of NBA

Fans Gone Wild.

"It's actually embarrassing," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "Unacceptable."

Nothing had as much of an effect on the outcome and, potentially, the rest of this postseason for Philadelphia, the East's No. 1 seed, as what happened to Embiid, who came into the night averaging better than a point per minute in the series.

In Game 3's 29-point win for the 76ers, for example, he produced a playoff career-high 36 points in 28 minutes against the Wizards, who needed to go through the play-in round just to get the No. 8 seed.

But the center headed to the locker room late in the first quarter after taking a hard fall behind the baseline when his shot was blocked by Robin

Lopez. Embiid tried to play on, wincing and leaning over during breaks in play, before checking out eventually and limping off.

He never returned and finished with eight points and six rebounds in 11 minutes.

"We took advantage of what was on the floor," Beal said.

Philadelphia led by as many as 11 in the opening period but that was down to 61-60 at halftime.

And Washington took over briefly in the third quarter, leading by as much as 92-78 in its final minute. A back-and-forth fourth quarter was tight down the stretch after Danny Green's layup with under 4 1/2 minutes to go made it 106-all.

That's when Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—A fan was tackled after running onto the court during an NBA playoff game between the Washington Wizards and Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night, the latest example of unruly behavior as teams let more spectators in the stands during the pandemic.

"You can tell those people have been in some sort of captivity for the last year, year and change, right?" Wizards center Robin Lopez said. "It's kind of wild to see the liberties people are taking."

The players were heading toward Washington's basket in the third quarter of the home team's 122-114 victory in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference first-round series when the action was halted because of the intruder, who jumped as if pretending to try to dunk.

Fans Gone Wild: Spectator runs out on court during NBA game

A security guard grabbed and held down the person near the baseline as 76ers center Dwight Howard stood nearby.

The fan was escorted away from the court and play resumed after a brief interruption.

"I don't know what he was trying to do," Washington forward Rui Hachimura said. "I think they're just excited to come back. But they've got to be more respectful of us as players. They think they can do whatever they want."

After beginning this season with zero spectators allowed at its arena, Washington has steadily increased the capacity to the point where Monday's contest had an announced attendance of 10,665, roughly 50% of what the place holds.

"The stuff that's been hap-



AP
Philadelphia 76ers center Dwight Howard (39) watches as a fan who ran onto the court is restrained by security personnel during the second half of Game 4 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Washington Wizards, Monday, May 31, 2021, in Washington.

pening over the last week — we all know that fans shouldn't be doing that stuff. That shouldn't happen during the game," Wizards All-Star Bradley Beal said. "Just sit there and enjoy the game or stay home and watch it on TV. We're fortunate nobody got hurt."

During this series, Washington guard Russell Westbrook had popcorn dumped on him as he walked to the locker room after getting injured in Game 2 at Philadelphia.

"I don't know what's going on with these fans right now," Sixers coach Doc Rivers said. "We've just got to have safety."

On Sunday in the Celtics-Nets series, Brooklyn guard Kyrie Irving was nearly hit by a bottle thrown from the stands during a game in Boston.

Earlier, in New York, a spectator spit at Atlanta's Trae Young as he prepared to inbound the ball during the Knicks-Hawks series.

Three fans were banned in Utah after Grizzlies guard Ja Morant said they "just went too far" with him or his family.

"NBA has great fans. I played in Philadelphia; they have great fans. They had one knucklehead that decided to throw popcorn. Boston has great fans. One knucklehead decided to throw a water bottle. New York has great fans; one knucklehead decided to spit on somebody. We have great fans. One knucklehead decided to come into the arena," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said.

"It's unacceptable," Brooks said. "I'm tired of it. We all deserve better."

Red-hot Rays keep Yankees reeling with 3-1 victory



NEW YORK (AP)—Rich Hill finished

May with the lowest monthly ERA in 75 years of a pitcher in his 40s, and the Tampa Bay Rays won for the 16th time in 17 games by keeping up their domination of the reeling Yankees with a 3-1 victory Monday.

Hill (4-2), a 41-year-old left-hander who is the oldest player in Rays' history, improved to 3-0 against the Yankees this season. Hill was 3-1 with a 0.78 ERA in six May starts. Miguel Andújar homered in the seventh, just his second since 2018. J.P. Feyereisen, acquired May 21 from Milwaukee for shortstop Willy Adames, finished a five-hitter for his third save.

The AL East-leading Rays (35-20) improved to 7-3 against the Yankees this season.

New York (29-25) limped to the season's one-third mark with its fourth straight defeat and sixth in seven games.

Jameson Taillon (1-4) lost to Hill for the second time this year. He allowed three runs and five hits in five-plus innings.

Manuel Margot hit an RBI double in the third. Austin Meadows homered into the right-field short porch in the fourth and Randy Arozarena had an RBI single in the fifth.

Astros 11, Red Sox 2

In Houston, Kyle Tucker had a season-best three hits and tied a career high with four RBIs as Houston handed former bench coach Alex Cora and the Boston Red Sox their most lopsided loss of the season.

This was the first time Cora, now managing the Red Sox again, had faced the Astros since being suspended last year for his role in Houston's illegal sign-stealing scheme in 2017.

Cora helped Houston win the 2017 World Series as bench coach, then managed Boston to the 2018 championship. He was let go by the Red Sox following Major League Baseball's investigation into the Astros, then suspended by MLB through the 2020 post-season before getting rehired in Boston last November.

Jose Urquidy (4-2) did his part in ending Boston's three-game winning streak. He yielded three hits and one run, striking out nine in six innings in his return from the injured list.

Urquidy, who had been out since May 12 with shoulder inflammation, won his career-best fourth straight decision.

Eduardo Rodriguez (5-4) allowed a season-high six runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings to extend his losing streak to a career-long four games.

Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer and Alex Bregman drove in two runs for Houston.



Dodgers 9, Cardinals 4

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor drove in three runs with a tie-breaking double that capped a 14-pitch at-bat in the sixth inning, rallying Los Angeles past St. Louis to snap a three-game skid.

Taylor fouled off nine pitches — four in a row twice — by Genesis Cabrera before delivering the two-out double for a 6-3 lead. Two batters earlier, Cabrera issued a bases-loaded walk to Will Smith that tied the game.

Taylor also homered and doubled, going 3 for 4 with four RBIs and two runs scored.

Trevor Bauer (6-3) allowed four runs—three earned—and five hits in 6 2/3 innings. Gavin Lux hit a pair of solo homers for the Dodgers on manager Dave Roberts' 49th birthday.

Cardinals starter Jack Flaherty exited with left side tightness after five innings. He equaled his season high with nine strikeouts. The right-hander gave up two runs and two hits against his favorite team while growing up in nearby Burbank.

With Flaherty gone, the Dodgers batted around in the sixth. Ryan Helsley (3-3) took the loss.

Cubs 7, Padres 2

In Chicago, Javier Báez and Patrick Wisdom each homered twice, helping Kohl Stewart and Chicago beat San Diego.

Stewart pitched five innings of one-run ball in his first major league win since July 21, 2019, for Minnesota against Oakland. Stewart (1-0) opted out of last season because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kris Bryant also went deep as Chicago won for the seventh time in eight games.

San Diego dropped to 4-4 on

its 10-game road trip. Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his 16th homer and Wil Myers drove in a run, but that was it for the Padres.

Chris Paddack (2-4) allowed five runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings in his first loss since April 27. The right-hander struck out six and walked one.

White Sox 8, Indians 6, 8 innings, 1st game Indians 3, White Sox 1, 2nd game

In Cleveland, José Ramírez's two-run homer and a solid start by reliever Cal Quantrill led Cleveland over Chicago, giving the Indians their second straight doubleheader split in two days.

Ramírez connected in the third inning off Jimmy Lannert (0-1) to break a 1-all tie as the Indians, who rallied to win Game 2 on Sunday against Toronto, got back the game they dropped earlier to the AL Central-leading White Sox.

Phil Maton (1-0) was the winner in the nightcap. Emmanuel Clase struck out three in the seventh for his ninth save.

In the opener, Adam Eaton's two-run homer off James Karinchak (2-2) and José Abreu's sacrifice fly in the eighth led Chicago to the win. Indians starter Triston McKenzie struck out a club-record eight straight hitters, two short of the major league record set by Hall of Famer Tom Seaver in 1970.

Chicago starter Carlos Rodón shook off allowing back-to-back homers in the first inning and hung around for six. He pitched a no-hitter against the Indians on April 14.

Codi Heuer (4-1) worked the seventh and Aaron Bummer gave up a run in the eighth before getting his first save.

César Hernández homered twice but also made two errors

for Cleveland.

Both games were scheduled for seven innings.

Reds 11, Phillies 1

In Cincinnati, Max Schrock homered, tripled and doubled before leaving with an apparent leg injury. Wade Miley pitched six solid innings and Cincinnati cruised past Philadelphia Phillies.

Kyle Farmer homered and drove in five runs as Cincinnati sent the Phillies to their third straight loss.

Miley (5-4) came off the 10-day injured list and showed no ill effects from a sore foot. He gave up a run and six hits while striking out six.

Schrock drove in three runs. He hit a two-run homer in a four-run second and an RBI triple in the fifth.

Vince Velasquez (2-1) allowed six runs and five hits and three walks in three innings.

Brewers 3, Tigers 2, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Luis Urias hit a drive that bounced over the wall and brought home Omar Narváez with the winning run in the 10th inning and Milwaukee edged Detroit Tigers.

The Brewers won their fifth straight and snapped the Tigers' three-game winning streak.

Willy Adames hit a two-run homer for the Brewers. Akil Baddoo had a game-tying solo shot for the Tigers in the seventh.

After falling behind 1-2 in the count with one out, Urias fouled off two pitches before his drive off José Cisnero (0-2) hit the warning track in right-center and bounced over the wall. Urias was credited with a single.

The Tigers started the top of the 10th by having Willi

Tampa Bay Rays left fielder Randy Arozarena high-fives second baseman Brandon Lowe (8) after defeating the New York Yankees in a baseball game on Monday, May 31, 2021, in New York.

Castro bunt Jake Rogers over to third, but Robbie Grossman and Harold Castro struck out looking to end the sixth consecutive scoreless appearance for Brad Boxberger (2-1).

Twins 3, Orioles 2, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Rob Refsnyder bounced back from a run-in with the center-field fence to score the go-ahead run in the 10th inning on a wild pitch and Minnesota handed Baltimore its 14th consecutive loss.

The Orioles' skid ties for second-longest in team history—they also dropped 14 in a row in 1954, the season the club moved from St. Louis to Baltimore. The Orioles' worst losing streak came in 1988 when they lost their first 21 games of the year.

The Twins have beaten Baltimore 16 consecutive times, one away from Minnesota's franchise-record against one opponent. The Twins topped Boston 17 straight times in 1965-66.

Refsnyder smacked into the padded wall chasing Ryan Mountcastle's home run in the fifth that flew well over the fence. Refsnyder went down hard on the warning track, but stayed in the game.

It was 1-all when Refsnyder began the 10th as the automatic runner at second base. He moved to third on Kyle Garlick's grounder and scored easily with a headfirst slide when Adam Plutko (1-2) threw a pitch in the dirt.

Jorge Polanco followed with a homer over the right-field scoreboard.

After Taylor Rogers (1-2) contained the Orioles in the ninth, DJ Stewart had an RBI single off Hansel Robles in the extra frame. After Stewart moved to third on a wild pitch, Robles got out of the jam and earned his fourth save with two strikeouts and a flyball.

Giants 6, Angels 1

In San Francisco, Evan Longoria hit a two-run homer before leaving with a sore muscle on his right side, and Johnny Cueto pitched seven stellar innings in San Francisco's victory over Los Angeles.

LaMonte Wade Jr. also went deep for the Giants, his first major league home run since hitting two for the Twins in 2019. Cueto (4-1) allowed five hits and one run, struck out five and didn't walk a batter.

Mauricio Dubon launched a two-out homer in the sixth to chase Angels starter Dylan Bundy (0-6). The Giants, who took three of four on the road from the rival Dodgers to complete a 5-1 trip, have multiple home runs in six straight games.

Braves 5, Nationals 3

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 16th home run to tie for the big league lead in Atlanta's win over Washington.

Acuña went deep to match Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr., San Diego's Fernando Tatis Jr. and Texas' Adolis Garcia for most in the majors.

The Braves have won six of seven against the Nationals this season and outscored them 33-21. Washington has lost five in a row overall.

Charlie Morton (4-2) gave up three runs, six hits and three walks with six strikeouts in five innings. Will Smith earned his ninth save in nine chances.

Joe Ross (2-5) fell behind 3-0 in the first, when William Contreras had a two-run single.

Josh Bell hit a two-run homer for the Nationals.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5, 10 innings

In Seattle, Ty France hit a tying single and scored on Tom Murphy's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as Seattle rallied past Oakland for its fifth straight win.

The Mariners improved to 5-0 in extra innings this season.

Oakland took a 5-4 lead in the top of the 10th on a two-out single by Aramis García off Daniel Zamora (2-0).

The Mariners pulled even on France's one-out single off Lou Trivino (2-2). J.P. Crawford followed with a one-hopper that first baseman Matt Olson couldn't handle for an error, and the ball rolled down the right field line. France was held at third, but he scored easily on Murphy's deep fly to right.

Royals 7, Pirates 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Adalberto Mondesi hit a two-run homer and Mike Minor pitched six solid innings to send Kansas City past Pittsburgh.

The Royals have won 10 of 16 to get back to .500 for the first time since an 11-game losing streak dropped them four games below.

Minor (4-2) allowed two runs and five hits. He struck out seven and walked one.

Chad Kuhl (0-2) took the loss in his return from the injured list. He gave up three runs and six hits in four innings.

Bryan Reynolds homered and drove in two runs for the Pirates.

4-time Slam champ Osaka out of French Open, cites anxiety

Naomi Osaka withdrew from the French Open on Monday and wrote on Twitter that she would be taking a break from competition, a dramatic turn of events for a four-time Grand Slam champion who said she experiences “huge waves of anxiety” before speaking to the media and revealed she has “suffered long bouts of depression.”

Osaka’s agent, Stuart Duguid, confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that the world’s No. 2-ranked tennis player was pulling out before her second-round match at the clay-court tournament in Paris.

The stunning move came a day after Osaka, a 23-year-old who was born in Japan and moved with her family to the U.S. at age 3, was fined \$15,000 for skipping the post-match news conference after

her first-round victory at the French Open. She also was threatened by all four Grand Slam tournaments with possible additional punishment, including disqualification or suspension, if she continued with her intention — which Osaka revealed last week on Twitter — to not “do any press during Roland Garros.”

She framed the matter as a mental health issue, saying that it can create self-doubt to have to answer questions after a loss.

“First and foremost we are sorry and sad for Naomi Osaka. The outcome of Naomi withdrawing from Roland Garros is unfortunate,” French tennis federation president Gilles Moretton said Monday. “We wish her the best and the quickest possible recovery. And we look forward to having Naomi in our tournament next year.”



Japan’s Naomi Osaka returns the ball to Romania’s Patricia Maria Tig during their first round match of the French open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, in this Sunday, May 30, 2021, file photo.

Moretton said the four major tournaments, and the professional tennis tours, “remain very committed to all athletes’ well-being and to continually improving every aspect of players’ experience in our tournament, including with the

media, like we always have.”

In Monday’s post, Osaka spoke about dealing with depression since the 2018 U.S. Open, which she won by beating Serena Williams in a final filled with controversy.

“I would never trivialize mental health or use the term lightly,” Osaka wrote, explaining that speaking with the me-

dia makes her anxious.

“I think now the best thing for the tournament, the other players and my well-being is that I withdraw so that everyone can get back to focusing on the tennis going on in Paris,” Osaka wrote. “I never wanted to be a distraction and I accept that my timing was not ideal and my message could have been clearer.”

She continued: “Anyone that knows me knows I’m introverted, and anyone that has seen me at the tournaments will notice that I’m often wearing headphones as that helps dull my social anxiety. ... I am not a natural public speaker and get huge waves of anxiety before I speak to the world’s media.”

Williams was asked about Osaka on Monday after winning her opening match in the first scheduled night session in French Open history.

“I feel for Naomi. I feel like I wish I could give her a

hug because I know what it’s like. ... I’ve been in those positions,” Williams said. “We have different personalities, and people are different. Not everyone is the same. I’m thick; other people are thin. Everyone is different and everyone handles things differently. You just have to let her handle it the way she wants to, in the best way she thinks she can, and that’s the only thing I can say. I think she’s doing the best that she can.”

Osaka has never been past the third round on the French Open’s red clay. It takes seven victories to win a Grand Slam title, which she has done four times at hard-court tournaments: the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020; the Australian Open in 2019 and this February.

“Here in Paris I was already feeling vulnerable and anxious so I thought it was better to exercise self-care and skip the press conferences,” she wrote.

Asian World Cup qualifiers to be moved from China to Dubai

BEIJING (AP)—China’s COVID-19 travel restrictions will likely mean World Cup qualifying matches scheduled for the eastern city of Suzhou this week will be relocated to the United Arab Emirates.

The Chinese Football Association issued a statement Monday saying the outbreak of infections in the Maldives and Syria meant both national teams would have to undergo strict quarantine after arriving in China, and couldn’t play as scheduled.

Maldives and Syria were

scheduled to play Group A games in Suzhou in the second round of Asian qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

“Under the suggestion of the Asian Football Confederation, the CFA agreed to move the remaining Group A matches of the FIFA 2022 World Cup Asian qualifiers to Dubai,” the CFA statement said.

The AFC has not announced a new schedule of matches.

Syria leads the five-team group with 15 points from five straight wins. China moved

into second spot on 10 points after a 7-0 win over last-place Guam on Sunday. Maldives is in fourth place with six points. The top team in each group will advance to the third round of Asian qualifying.

The second round of Asian qualifying has been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining games in most of the eight groups are to be contested in hubs. Some teams will be playing their first international matches in 18 months this week.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	20	.636	
Boston	32	21	.604	2
New York	29	25	.537	5½
Toronto	27	25	.519	6½
Baltimore	17	37	.315	17½

Central Division

Chicago	33	21	.611	
Cleveland	29	24	.547	3½
Kansas City	26	26	.500	6
Minnesota	22	31	.415	10½
Detroit	22	32	.407	11

West Division

Oakland	31	25	.554	
Houston	29	24	.547	½
Seattle	28	27	.509	2½
Los Angeles	24	30	.444	6
Texas	22	33	.400	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	26	20	.565	
Atlanta	25	26	.490	3½
Philadelphia	25	29	.463	5
Miami	24	28	.462	5
Washington	21	29	.420	7

Central Division

Chicago	30	23	.566	
St. Louis	30	24	.556	½
Milwaukee	29	25	.537	1½
Cincinnati	24	28	.462	5½
Pittsburgh	20	33	.377	10

West Division

San Francisco	34	20	.630	
San Diego	34	21	.618	½
Los Angeles	32	22	.593	2
Colorado	20	34	.370	14
Arizona	19	36	.345	15½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEARCH

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tions and Level 1 for assistant coaches. The federation, through development director Elias Rangamar, will work with FIFA Oceania in providing certification courses for interested coaches. Rangamar will also assist coaches that will be attending the Phase 1 and 2 of the national team training program, while the selection will be announced during the last week of October. Head coaches will then take the lead in training their respective teams for the phases 3 to 5 of the program.

MULDOON

From Page 20

However, she managed to push through the setback and eventually regained momentum on the way back to Paupau Beach. “Coming back toward Paupau with the wind

at your back, I felt like a superhero,” she said.

Aside from Muldoon, Kerri Bauer, Yuki Rechucher, and team 1st Tri also gained medals for prevailing in their respective categories in the female division.

COSTALES

Costales encourages others who dream to play sports like soccer on an international level, to take advantage of the opportunities on their home island.

“To those athletes eager to compete at a higher level, take advantage of all the opportunities available and don’t be

afraid of failure. There’s no harm in trying. Reach out to alumnis or other individuals that could help you through the process. With our unique experiences on island, there is so much we could bring to the table. Play with your heart and always remember where you came from. Play with CNMI pride. Thank you to Jerry Tan, my coaches, family, teammates, and most especially, the

5-WEEK UOG HIGH SCHOOLS BASEBALL PROGRAM Calling all high school baseball players

Fulfill your goal of playing on a university baseball team. Work on your baseball skills and practice to get better with your throwing, hitting and fielding. So put on your baseball uniform and come out to the George Washington High School Baseball Field and play baseball. Starting June 6 and the following four Saturdays at the GWHS Baseball Field at 9am and play baseball and have fun.

The UOG Schools Program is about working with the high school athletes to assist them in meeting their very best baseball potential. University style baseball practice will help you prepare for the next level of baseball while learning new ways to train your skills to get better. The 2.5 hour program will be relaxed low intensity high

energy workout and will move quickly from one activity to the other. University Baseball Practice is busy work with a great amount of detail from on-field training and indoor training.

Bring your baseball bat, fielder’s glove, bat gloves, water bottle, sports towel, strong work ethic, and your game face to practice. This is not a fundamentals clinic but a college style practice session. Great growth opportunities to build your baseball talents and improvement towards tougher higher level competition baseball.

University Baseball is a culture and flavor of its own and much different from community or recreational baseball. University baseball being more inclusive in work

and life, raising the bar, personal discipline, and making new friendships.

“There are substantial number of potential of young baseball athletes on Guam with aptitude for baseball and high school baseball athletes can be great resource in support of the development of UOG Baseball. The Schools Program is designed to assist in attracting local high school athletes to continue to play baseball on Guam,” said UOG Baseball coach Bill Bennett.

Baseball coaches and parents are welcome to participate and be leaders in this 5 week UOG Schools Program.

More information, contact Bill Bennett at (671) 483-6500. (PR)



runner in the 30-39 category so by default, she was awarded the category title. However, she finished within the Top 5 fastest individual female runners with a time of 3:12:47.

For the 40-49 category, Rechucher bested the competition with a time of 3:14:57,

man above, God. May all my successes be devoted to you,” she said.

Costales was named Female Student Athlete of the Month for the month of May for her accomplishment in soccer.

The honoree plays for Shirley’s Football Club in the women’s league and in addition to playing in the leagues and training with the national women’s team. Costales also

followed by Ali Nelson who came in at 3:48:07. Making the Top 3 was Sylvia Taggart who came in at 4:19:54.

In the female team relay category, Team 1st Tri finished first with a time of 2:52:07, followed by Last Minute Spy who recorded a time of

coaches aspiring youth national team players selected for the NMIFA Junior Academy, also known as the Youth Elite Academy. She also coaches two TanHoldings Football Club teams, the Division B team in the women’s league, and the U15 co-ed team that is now preparing for the youth league.

Also, Costales just received a “C” License, or a coaching

2:56:01.

The Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon was named as such because it encompassed 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run, which adds up to 51.5 km. It was organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

certificate, after taking the course in late February. A “C” license is the minimum requirement to be appointed as a coach for international soccer tournaments.

Costales has gained quite a bit of experience in soccer as she has represented the NMI in several international tournaments, the last of which was the AFC U16 Championship Qualifiers held in Tajikistan in 2018.



Mitchell scores 30,
Jazz beat Memphis
to go up 3-1

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4-time Slam champ
Osaka out of French
Open, cites anxiety

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Muldoon is 5150's fastest female

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Lily Muldoon continues to make her mark in the CNMI sports scene after completing the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon last Saturday with the fastest time among the females.

During the event last Saturday, Muldoon came out the fastest female of the triathlon after completing the three courses in 2:36:50. Her time also got her the first-place medal in the women's elite category.

Coming in at second place for the same category was Kimiko McKagan who completed the triathlon at 2:54:32. Rounding up the Top 3 was Ayano Braxton who submitted a time of 2:55:48.

Muldoon, who conquered the Tagaman Triathlon back in 2019, said she was eager and excited to come back and compete again.

"I joined today because I did the Tagaman two years ago and had been dying to come-



back to compete again. I just love the spirit of it and I am excited about everyone being out here competing," she said.

The Star Wars Run and inaugural Women's Run champ said as a runner she really wanted to push herself past her comfort zone and incorporate biking and swimming into her life, and what better way than through competing in the triathlon.

"It feels good, it was an exciting time because I am a runner at heart and I'm trying to add in biking and swimming and it has been a great success," she said.

When asked about the struggles she faced during the event, she said the bike portion of the race was where she



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Lily Muldoon, middle, poses for a photo with her runner-up Kimiko McKagan, second from the left, and third place Ayano Braxton, second from the right, during the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon awarding ceremony last Saturday.

faced some challenges.

"I would say the hardest part was the run in the heat and also during the bike ride when you were going toward

Banzai Cliff because there was a headwind and I felt like I couldn't make it," she said.

See MULDOON on Page 19



The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is looking for FIBA Level 2 certified coaches for the national head coach positions and Level 1 for assistant coaches

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will start its search for coaches for the men's and women's national squads that will be competing in the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands with the launching of its national team program this Saturday.

Coaches who aspire to call the shots for the CNMI national teams are required to

attend the meet-and-greet session of the NMIBF on June 5 at 7:30am and the open tryouts, beginning on June 8 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. At this weekend's event, coaches will be briefed with the national team program and the criteria for selection for the national team coaches.

"We are inviting coaches to



join our greet and meet event this Saturday and be part of our national team program. We have a lot of talented players out there that will need the guidance of coaches to maximize their full potential and be able to represent well the CNMI in the 2022 Micronesian Games and future regional tournaments," NMIBF president James Lee said.

"Coaches will play a critical role in the success of our national program and the NMIBF knows we have people who are committed and have the ability to take on this big challenge," the NMIBF head added.

NMIBF is looking for FIBA Level 2 certified coaches for the national head coach posi-

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Costales to play soccer on NCAA level

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Athletic Association Division III school.

Katrina Costales, a soccer player for Shirley's Football Club, was accepted to Whitworth University and

will officially be joining its Women's Soccer Team. The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association congratulates Costales, an NMI National Team member and Marianas High School graduate, as she will head out to Whitworth University to join their Women's Soccer Team.

Whitworth University, located in Spokane, Washington, is a National Collegiate

In addition to her acceptance into Whitworth University, Costales graduated in the Top 10 of her class in May 28, 2021.

"There are no words that can express how grateful I am toward NMIFA and everyone who has helped me get to where I am today. The amount of opportunities, support, and experiences available through this program is unimaginable. I am so blessed to have grown up in the soccer community here," Costales said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Katrina Costales will officially be joining Whitworth University's Women's Soccer Team.